SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

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Biting rich list

Colin set to get his teeth into £4m win

See Page 3

Hall change

Venue is revamped as its popularity grows

See Page 6

Fight now on

Baggies facing fight for first flight survival

See Back Page

BUSINESS PARK 100 JOBS BOOST

COUNCIL chiefs hope the creation of a new industrial site at a former school and training centre in Oldbury will bring up to 100 jobs.

They are now looking for investors to come forward after the submission of outline plans to turn the Training and Development Centre in Popes Lane into a new industrial site.

Report by Tom Mason

Officers from the council's regeneration and economy team have put together the scheme that will see the site transformed into a 205,000 sq ft industrial development.

Councillor Ian Jones, cabinet member for jobs and economy said: "We are trying to attract interested businesses into the borough to invest locally and support industry in the Black Country. We hope that this site, along with others, will attract developers and employers from advanced industries into the area."

Located

The centre is less than two miles from junction two of the M5 motorway in Oldbury, which council bosses have said will make it an attractive site for future investors.

"We know that there are manufacturers out there looking for a ready prepared site like this," said Councillor Jones. "This is the council investing in a site that is ideally located near to a major motorway in the heart of Britain that will connect them to other businesses in the north and south. We are putting our money where our mouth is."

Outline plans for the site also open the possibility for it to be turned into offices or used for green technologies including waste recycling and management. The site of the former council building served as the Albright Secondary School from the 1930s, before being turned into a training centre following its closure in 1983. In total, 150 council staff were based there. Some were offered redundancy last year, with the remainder moving out earlier this year.

The plans are expected to be approved later this year.

Meanwhile a similar scheme in Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, could see the creation of a 160,000 sq ft development that is expected to attract more than 100 jobs, as companies involved in the burgeoning automotive and electrical trade are rumoured to want to move on site.

Councillor Jones added: "This development will be similar to the proposed development in Kelvin Way, which is expected to create more than 100 jobs, but this site in Popes Lane could be even bigger if the right employer chooses to develop the site. We are doing everything we can to attract new employers into the area."

A detailed plan of the site in West Bromwich is expected to be submitted in the coming months.

Cash plea to help parade march on

Pete Hill, of Greets Green, cheers on the St George's Day parade in Westminster Road, West Bromwich

ORGANISERS of what is believed to be the country's biggest St George's Day parade are looking for help with funding to secure the event's future, following the success of Sunday where an estimated 15,000 people were in attendance.

The annual Stone Cross parade has been running for 17 years and is thought to be the largest event of its kind in England.

But the event costs around £11,000 to run, and is paid for privately by organisers, volunteers and fundraisers – it receives no financial support from local authorities. Mark Cowles, one of the organisers, is now calling on anyone who can help them raise the cash needed for future events.

The 45-year-old said: "It's so hard to get the amount that we need. We have to pay for bands on the day, road closures, marshals, the list goes on.

"We will speak to anyone who is forthcoming about helping us to raise the money, we won't rule anyone out. As long as it brings the community together and highlights what we are trying to do, then we are open to offers."

Events such as a night of music and a raffle at Charlemont Bowling Club, on April 11, are keeping the parade going year after year. Mr Cowles said Sandwell Council helped financially for a number of years, but following swingeing cuts to local authorities it had to stop its support.

Mr Cowles said: "People from all over the country have contacted me to ask about how they go about putting their own parades on, from places like Brighton and London. Really we are a benchmark for the country."

If anyone can help with fundraising for future parades, they should email Mr Cowles on stgeorgeparade@aol.co.uk, or call 07788 750987.

● Pictures – See Page 2

Parking bays call set to be snubbed

DOZENS of people have signed a petition calling on parking restrictions on a busy high street to be relaxed – but it looks set to fall on deaf ears, with a decision likely today, Thursday.

Sandwell Council has received a petition signed by 46 people concerning High Street in Cape Hill, Smethwick, calling for the general public to be able to park on the road.

Currently the use of parking bays is restricted to resident permit holders only.

But businesses say there are problems trying to find spaces in nearby roads.

Officers are however recommending that the borough's highways chief Councillor Maria Crompton takes no action when the matter comes before today's meeting.

A report to Councillor Crompton says: "The petitioners claim due to the lack of space in other nearby roads, the public and business owners are experiencing difficulties when looking for parking spaces.

It added: "Observations on site did reveal parking spaces available in the residents parking bay during the day. However, to make the bay shared use may prevent residents from parking when returning during the day."

Bridge man sparks alert

A SECTION of the M5 leading on to the M6 was closed by police after a man was seen close to the edge of a footbridge.

Motorists faced delays when both carriageways of the motorway between the M6 link and junction one for West Bromwich were closed at around 7.30pm last night.

The 35-year-old was later detained under the Mental Health Act. The motorway fully reopened at 8.30pm but police say this was hampered by motorists getting out of their cars.

Food firm couple's fortune tops £1bn

A NEW wealth ranking has rated the owners of West Midlands business 2 Sisters Food Group as the fifth richest British Asians.

Ranjit Boparan and his wife Baljinder are estimated to be worth £1.35 billion according to a top 10 created by the Asian Business Awards.

Mr Boparan, aged 47, of Little Aston, started out working in a butcher's shop in Bilston at 16.

The food group he has created has has grown to take over household names like Northern Foods and Harry Ramsden's.

He started 2 Sisters in 1990 with a small bank loan and has seen it grow to employ more than 24,000 people, with annual sales now exceeding £3 billion.

It includes chicken processing factories in Smethwick, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton.

Meanwhile, London-based entrepreneurs Srichand and Gopichand Hinduja top the British Asian rich list.

They have a combined fortune of £13.5bn from running a multinational conglomerate and businesses as diverse as trucks and lubricants to banking and healthcare.

Steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal is second on the list, with £12bn.

Summertime spookiness

A SPOOK hunt is set to take place at a former magistrates' courthouse.

The grade II listed courthouse in West Bromwich, on Lombard Street West, is now deserted and contains a labyrinth of corridors, courtrooms and prison cells.

A ghost hunt will be taking place overnight in the building on Saturday, August 23, and will include vigils and paranormal experiments. To find out more, see www.dusktilldawnevents.co.uk.

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May Day festival's volunteers push

ORGANISERS of Lightwoods May Day Festival are having one last push to find volunteers ahead of the big day.

More than 40 people have already put their name forward for the Bearwood celebrations on May 5. Around 22,000 people turned out last year to enjoy the sun and music in Bearwood and this year organisers are hoping more will help as the festival celebrates its fourth year.

To make this year's event even more special the team behind the festival have arranged a variety of musical acts including headliners, Musical Youth – the Birmingham based band made famous by their hit, Pass the Dutchie.

Richard Marshall, chairman of the Friends of Lightwoods Park and House said: "Last year's event was massive, it was absolutely amazing. I don't think we could have fit another person into the park. Last year we had 40 excellent volunteers, who have all stayed on to help this year, which I think says a lot about the event – hopefully we will have more this year."

Other acts performing include Pete Williams one of the founding members of Dexy's Midnight Runners who will be joined by up to eight top local acts taking to the festivals main stage.

"We have been trying to get Pete Williams to play for years, but the event has never been big enough. This year he came to us and asked to play – we were all blown away. It shows that we are building a name for ourselves," added Mr Marshall.

The show will also include a fun fair, real ale and cider festival, children's entertainment park, craft, food and community stalls as well as stalls, a tremendous set of events on the skate park. It is also the home of Sandwell's Strongest Man competition that sees some of the boroughs most muscular athletes taking part in events to see who is the best in a number of areass.

The event is backed by Enville Brewery and Black Country Ales with its beer bus. If you would like to volunteer call Lightwoods Park Project Officer Cherie O'Sulivan at cherie_osullivan@sandwell.gov.uk

Thousands fly the flag for St George

THOUSANDS took to the streets of the Black Country for what is thought to be the country's biggest St George's Day parade at the weekend.

Among those at the annual event in Stone Cross, in West Bromwich, were veterans from the Armed Forces and the Royal British Legion, and their presence had increased poignancy this year with the 100-year anniversary of the start of the Great War.

Before the parade started on Sunday, a minute's silence was held in memory of all the servicemen and women who lost their lives in the First World War.

The parade was followed by rousing renditions of 'Jerusalem' and 'God Save The Queen' before the crowds – many of whom were dressed in red and white and of course waving their St George flags – set off on a march around the streets.

St Georges Day parade moving along Westminster Road, West Bromwich

Giving the dog a better view!

Andy the lab cross and Emily Jane Binsley

Dylan Latham and Tara Cooper seen in patriotic mood

Decorated

The long procession began in Westminster Road before a sea of red and white revellers made their way to Dartmouth Park.

Several houses along the route were also decorated in the colours of St George with organisers estimating as many as 15,000 people taking part in the celebrations.

Among those at the parade was Jacqui Johnson, aged 57, from West Bromwich.

She said: "I come every year and it's good to see the community celebrating and there's always a really good spirit and everyone enjoys themselves."

Her friend Claire Blakemore, aged 40, from The Woods Estate, added: "It's organised really well and it's good to see people out and taking pride in their country and their history."

The parade has been going for 17 years and is funded privately from donations from across the community.

It has grown year by year and attracts participants not only from across the region, but also from all parts of the UK

Organiser Mark Cowles, aged 45, said: "This a parade funded by the people for the people.

"It is something to celebrate our heritage and being proud to be English. It is the biggest parade in the country and we get people from London and from up north coming here.

"It has been a fantastic day and you can see what it means to the community when you're marching and there are old women with a tear in their eye as we pass them."

Pictures plea for school reunion

FORMER pupils at a village school are being asked to bring their old photographs to a reunion which is being staged next month.

More than 70 people are expected to turn out to the reunion for former pupils of Tividale's primary and secondary schools on May 13, starting at 11am

The event, which will be held at Tividale Football Club in Hawfield Road, is open to any youngsters who were at Tividale Primary School, Tividale Secondary Modern or Tividale Comprehensive from the 1940s onwards.

The event is being organised by Wendy Squires, now aged 73, who was a pupil at Tividale Primary School from 1946 to 1953.

Mrs Squires, who was Wendy Wall in her school days, has been organising the events for the last five years, and on previous occasions old pupils from as far afield as Vancouver, in Canada, had turned out.

"There is no cut-off date, we would like to see anybody who went to the school from the 1940s onwards," said Mrs Squires, who lives in Stourport-on-Severn.

"It would be really nice if they could bring some old photographs."

Leaks worst in the spring

HOMES spring most leaks in spring, new statistics have revealed. Figures from Walsall-based HomeServe have revealed spring is the busiest time of the year for 'household mishaps'.

Around 49 per cent of West Midlanders have reported a home emergency in spring over the last three years. March and April are highlighted as the worst months.

HomeServe chief Greg Reed said: "We'd recommend people take advantage of the bank holidays, to give their properties a bit of a post-winter MOT."

Route delays

MOTORISTS will face two weeks of delays along a main route through Walsall so that water main repairs can be carried out.

Work is being carried out along West Bromwich Road, at the junction of Sandwell Street, between April 28 and May 9.

As seen on BBC City SOS the big build

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Producer for music legends to visit site

A PRODUCER and engineer who worked with some of the greatest names in music holds a talk in the Midlands next month.

Ken Scott worked with the likes of The Beatles, David Bowie and Elton John in his long career.

The music producer and engineer will be holding his Abbey Road to Ziggy Stardust talk at University of Wolverhampton's Walsall Campus on May 6.

Over the years, Mr Scott has worked with classic rock acts including Pink Floyd, Procol Harum, Jeff Beck, Duran Duran, Harry Nilsson, The Rolling Stones, and Lou Reed.

He also played a big part in the world of jazz, being the first to integrate a more powerful rock sound into the genre.

Andrew Lowe, the university's music technician said: "Ken's career is an inspiration and that event is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our students to meet one of the most influential music producers of all time."

The talk will take place from 2.30pm to 5pm at the Performance Hub at the campus. Tickets are free for university students or staff, but £10 for the public – www.eventbrite.co.uk

Terror move man jailed

A TERROR suspect from the West Midlands has been jailed for 15 months after breaching terror prevention measures placed on him by police.

The man, who for legal reasons can only be identified as 'FF', admitted the offences at the Old Bailey last Tuesday. He was charged with attending an unauthorised meeting and using a computer without prior permission.

The man has been on remand since his arrest by officers from the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit last September.

Horse rescued

A HORSE had to be rescued after getting trapped down a ditch. A fire rescue technical rescue team were called to a field in Aldridge, at around 7.05am last Tuesday. Special equipment was used to lift the horse out of the 2ft wide hole.

GPs surgeries may soon open all week

DOZENS of GPs surgeries in the Black Country could be set to open seven days a week under new government plans to extend opening hours across the country.

Currently only a tiny fraction of practices in the UK are open all week on a full-time basis.

But David Cameron has set out plans aimed at making it easier for working people to access medical services at times when practices are traditionally closed. He said: "We want to support GPs to modernise their services so they can see patients from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week."

As part of a drive to ease winter pressures local health and care providers were each given a share of £250 million worth of government funding.

The cash has enabled health care bosses in Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton to pilot seven-day opening schemes to test demand for the service.

Sandwell Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) ran a pilot scheme involving all 112 GP practices based in Sandwell and West Birmingham.

Under the scheme, which came to an end on March 31, any patient registered with a practice was able to make an appointment with a GP on a Saturday or Sunday.

Chair of Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group, Dr Nick Harding said: "We introduced seven day access to GP appointments for Sandwell and West Birmingham patients over the winter period.

"We are currently looking at the usage figures for this project and will be using these as we plan our future services."

Meanwhile in Walsall, 24 surgeries piloted seven-day opening during February and March. Over the two-month period patients registered at participating GPs were offered the chance to book extra appointments at weekends.

Salma Ali, spokesperson for Walsall CCG, said the pilot would test the need for additional opening hours during the traditionally busy winter period. The group is currently evaluating patient take up during the scheme.

Dr Dan de Rosa, Chair of Wolverhampton CCG, said the group would be evaluating the successes of recent pilot schemes before making a decision on the implementation of seven-day opening.

Colin enjoys a big win to get his new teeth into

NEW millionaires, Colin and Brenda Roberts from Great Barr couple are celebrating after scooping the National Lottery jackpot.

The winners of the £4.3 million prize up for grabs on April 12 say they are still in shock, but among the list of priorities for Colin is for him to get his teeth fixed.

Colin, aged 56, who owns his own company DM Roberts Repairs, which repairs motor vehicles, retired from his position in 2007 to be a full time carer for his wife Brenda 76, who has severe arthritis. They have been married since 1975 and have lived in the Birmingham area since then.

Colin said: "I checked my numbers on the TV on Sunday morning, and I really couldn't believe it! After checking the ticket a further six times to make sure I hadn't made any mistakes, I went out to buy the paper so I could check it again.

Tomorrow

"This just doesn't happen to people like us – I think we are still both in shock.

"Every ordinary person wishes for it and then suddenly, you've got it and you're a winner.

"How many people go to bed and think, 'if I win the lottery tomorrow, I'm going to do this or I'm going to do that – I just can't believe it is us who have won!"

The couple are very happy in the home they share at the moment, but the garden is very restrictive for Brenda as it has lots of steps, so she can't get around unaided.

They would like to use some of their winnings to buy somewhere which would give her greater independence in the home and the potential to move around on her own.

As well as a new home in the same area, they've started to think of what else they'd like to buy.

Colin said: "I've always been scared of dentists, and had some bad dental work on my front teeth some time ago, so I would like to get my teeth done privately, as well as buy a new car. The options are mine now, I can get what I want and I can even have it customised if I'd like!

"I've had those numbers since the National Lottery first started, and picked them for the first show. The biggest amount I'd won so far was for three numbers until now – as well as the jackpot I also won £25 in the same draw, so it really was fate.

"When I realised I had matched five numbers I knew we had won the money – don't ask me how, I just knew!"

Next door neighbours, John and Margaret Webb said the couple deserved the win. Mrs Webb said: "We have lived next door to them for over 20 years and they are such a lovely couple.

"If anyone deserves a bit of luck it is Brenda and I hope the money goes someway to making life easier for her."

The couple, who have three daughters and a son, were described as a 'smashing couple' by neighbours Mr and Mrs McAuley.

Brenda McAuley said: "We have lived in this cul-de- sac for 48 years and everyone knows each other. They deserve it, they are a smashing couple, they really are such lovely people."

Ticket

Mr and Mrs Roberts bought the golden ticket at a newsagents just two streets away from their home. Colin has three lines each week and always buys from the same store.

The winning numbers from the draw were 4, 17, 22, 26, 31,47 and the winning ticket was bought from Birdbrook News in Great Barr. Shop owner Bal Showker said it was the first time a customer had won a prize so big.

Mr Showker said: "I have had this shop for 22 years and over the years we have had a few scratchcard wins but nothing like this. I am so pleased for them.

"He is a lovely man, he comes in every week to buy his lottery or pay for his papers." He added: "It is nice that something good has happened to someone local.

"The Camelot rep came out to see me today and told me the winning ticket was bought here. I am very pleased for them."

Colin and Brenda Roberts from Great Barr, who scooped a whopping £4.3 million on the National Lottery

NEWS in brief

Extra meeting over services

COUNCIL bosses will discuss children's services at a meeting on Tuesday at 6pm, at the Council House.

Walsall's Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel have scheduled an additional meeting to discuss findings of various one-off working groups.

Members felt the need to further explore several areas of children's services.

The working groups have been looking into home schooling, looked-after children and children's health.

Smash trial jury is discharged

THE jury in the trial of a Willenhall man accused of causing a smash on the M6 in which a pony died has been discharged after failing to reach a verdict.

Clayton Patterson, aged 51, of Villiers Street, was on trial at Birmingham Crown Court after denying dangerous driving.

It was alleged he had tried to undertake a horsebox before forcing it to stop by braking sharply leading to a smash with an articulated lorry. The smash was on August 13, 2013.

Training firm's academy cash

A LEADING training provider has invested more than £230,000 in its academy. In-Comm Training and Business Services in Aldridge has spent the money on a new hydraulics and pneumatics section.

This includes a live com ponents board for real-life scenarios for sector specific engineers, having offered a wide range of training and business solutions for more than 33 years.

Library visits due by writers

AUTHORS are visiting libraries across Walsall over the next few weeks.

Crime thriller writer Zoe Sharp will be at Brownhills Library on April 29 from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Rosie Goodwin will also visit Walsall Central Library on May 7 from 2-3.30pm. She will talk about her new book, A Mother's Shame.

Blaze at plant

DOZENS of members of staff were evacuated from a recycling plant in Darlaston after 15 tons of recycled foam caught fire. Fire crews were called to European Metal Recycling at around 3pm last Monday.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

ONE report this week shows Britain has fewer hospital beds than most European countries. Another report reveals that one patient in 16 picks up an infection in hospital. So even if we had more NHS beds, who'd want to stay in them?

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

IT IS claimed that the number of food parcels given away by food banks is rising towards one million. They have grown under the Coalition, just as they did under the last Labour government. They will continue to grow under whichever party forms the next government. Food banks are part of the 21st century political landscape and it is almost impossible to question their motives or their value without sounding hard-hearted. For the Tories, the only credible and acceptable response to food banks is to embrace them as part of the Big Society, to acknowledge that no welfare system will ever be 100 per cent efficient and to congratulate people who give their time and gifts to help those who slip through the welfare net. As long as cash and food donations are given to food banks freely by individuals and companies, no-one should object. And if Labour politicians are daft enough to brandish the rise of food banks as a club to whack the Tories, what will they be saying in 2020 when Labour has been in power for five years and the food banks are just about to hand over their two millionth parcel?

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THE Daily Mirror used a poignant front-page picture of a sobbing child to illustrate the desperation of families using food banks. It now emerges that the picture was taken years ago. The child is an American kid, the daughter of a photographer, who had been upset by losing an earthworm. There was absolutely no connection between this anguished child and food banks. Does it matter? I hope not. Newspapers and magazines tend to use generic, unidentified images when it would be wrong to identify an individual. I once worked on a paper whose photo library included an image of an old lady reading by the light of a candle. We used that image time after time to illustrate features on everything from loneliness in old age to burglary, adult literacy, dementia and power cuts.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

A FRIEND'S car wouldn't start. We left it a while and tried again, with the accelerator fully depressed. It started first time. Conclusion: the engine was flooded. Later, the car wouldn't start again. We removed the filler cap. It started first time. Conclusion: it was starved of petrol by a vacuum in the fuel tank. A few hours later the car broke down and even the AA couldn't fix it. Conclusion: It's a car. Cars have minds of their own. Especially if there's a bank holiday coming.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

THIS week's Marine Conservation Society report goes into ecstasies about the superb water quality at hundreds of British beaches. But those measurements were taken last year during an unusually long dry spell. After this winter's deluge, with rivers raging, cesspits overflowing and half of Somerset knee-deep in liquid sewage for weeks on end, anyone care for a paddle?

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TAKE a look around at your fellow Brits as the holiday season begins and the flesh goes on display. Do we look like a nation following healthy-eating advice? Or do we look more like a collection of beached whales, occasionally dragging ourselves to the hot-dog stand for another cholesterol fix? If you believe research published yesterday, a drop in the number of heart attacks and strokes is linked to a 15 per cent reduction in the amount of salt Brits consume. But isn't it far more likely to be the result of a massive NHS programme? Over the past 20 years millions of Brits have been diagnosed with high blood pressure by their GPs and given pressure-reducing pills. I bet that's having far more effect than any alleged change of diet. For the time being, I will take the salt connection with a pinch of, er, pepper.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Children's centres in 'good' rating

FIVE children's centres have been given an overall 'good' rating by Ofsted inspectors.

The Rowley Springfield, Rowley Hall, Cradley Heath and Old Hill, and Tividale centres which are all in Sandwell were said to have a programme of activities that 'meet families' needs well'.

The report published by Ofsted also states parents value the 'warm and friendly' environment at the centres and appreciate the 'very good' care and support which they get from leaders and staff.

Inspectors also praised staff at the Health for Living-managed children's centres, stating that they are 'well qualified and work well together as a team'.

Anna Gillespie, director of Health for Living, said: "Our aim is to improve the lives of children and families who use the centres, be it through hosting baby massage classes or cook-well sessions, which show parents how to prepare healthy meals."

She added: "This inspection result is testament to the hard work and commitment of staff at the centres and we are pleased with the outcome. We recognise that there are areas that we want to do even better in and we are working hard to ensure we do this."

Paula Ralph, cluster manager for the children's centres, said: "We are really pleased with the result of the inspection."

In February, GNG Nursery, run at Smethwick Youth and Community Centre in Trinity Street, was classed as outstanding by Ofsted.

Former councillor was 'force for the good'

By Alex Homer

MEMBERS of the community helped by the efforts of a former councillor have paid tribute to her saying she 'was a force for the good' for the area she represented.

Mary Docker served as a councillor from 2004 to 2012 in the Blackheath ward, where she worked as a market trader, running the Moonbeam Textiles stall. She was also the former deputy leader of Sandwell's Conservative opposition party before losing her seat on the authority.

Tributes – Mary Docker

The mother of two died a few weeks short of her 60th birthday, after losing her battle with cancer and her funeral is due to take place at St Hubert's RC Church, Oldbury, on Tuesday at 11am followed by burial at Rowley Regis Cemetery..

A minute's silence was held at a Sandwell Council meeting and tributes from Conservative colleagues flooded in.

During her time as a councillor and even afterwards, she was involved in a range of campaigns including for a ramp for wheelchair users at Powke Lane Cemetery in Rowley Regis.

Wayne Parkes, former branch secretary at Blackheath Royal British Legion who worked with Mrs Docker at the time, said: "She was a force for the good of the area without a shadow of a doubt. She was very easy to get along with – a very nice person with the local community at heart."

Mrs Docker had also been chairman of the Blackheath Business and Community Association, which meant she was involved in the organisation of the annual Tree of Life event in the town, at St Paul's Church, Long Lane, in memory of lost loved ones.

She has also overseen the town's 15 camera CCTV surveillance system and helped manage traders' radio link, working with police to provide evidence on crime that took place in the town, as well as campaigning in the interests of traders.

Sue Fullwood, who used to work in the market at Blackheath at the Scribbles stall with Mrs Docker, before moving to run Sue's Krafty Bits now in Hayley Green, also paid tribute to Mrs Docker.

Mrs Fullwood, who also used to attend traders meetings with Mrs Docker, added: "She was a formidable woman. If she knew she was right on something, she was totally unmovable. A lot of good things in Blackheath would not be in place without her pushing and pushing."

Mrs Docker had continued to campaign even after losing her council seat, calling for better, cleaner public toilets in Short Street Car Park, on Henderson Way, Blackheath, for the benefit of elderly visitors to the town, before the decision was taken to close them.

Happy cast ready for shows

Heidi Range, Ben Freeman and Cheryl Baker at Ed's Easy Diner, in Brum's Selfridges

HAPPY Days are here again as a new musical based on the hit 1970s TV series has landed in the West Midlands.

Happy Days – A New Musical is playing to audiences at the Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday and returns to the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton in June.

Based on the iconic TV series of the same name the show stars former Sugababe Heidi Range as Pinky, Bucks Fizz songstress Cheryl Baker as Mrs Cunningham and Emmerdale's Ben Freeman as the 'King of Cool' Arthur 'The Fonz' Fonzarelli. The plot centres around beloved diner Arnold's, which the Fonz, Potsie, Ralph and the crew are battling to save from demolition.

Audiences are also set for a treat when Cheryl Baker re-enacts one of her Bucks Fizz party tricks during a solo number, while in traditional Happy Days fashion Fonzie mixes attempts to rescue the diner with managing his love interest. The musical has been written by Garry Marshall - legendary creator of the original series.

Plea for selfies as part of display

SANDWELL museums staff are appealing for people to send in their own 'selfies' as part of a new exhibition charting the art of the portrait over the past 400 years.

Curators at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery say the notion of 'selfies' is nothing new and have launched an exhibition called 400 Years of the Selfie in response to the explosion of self portraits on social media.

It explores how we make sure those seeing our images see us in certain ways.The exhibition includes 10 fabulous portraits from Tudor and Stuart times and beyond through to the first Victorian photo portraits and brings viewers right up to the modern social media selfie.

Staff at the museum in Holyhead Road are asking visitors to create modern portraits which will be included in the exhibition. You can email them to museumarts_tourism@sandwell.gov.uk

The exhibition runs until 30 August and is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday 2pm-5pm and is free.

For more details visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/museums and follow the links to Wednesbury Museum.

Gabriel's So ready for gig

THE latest musician to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Peter Gabriel, will be heading to Birmingham.

He has added extra dates following his successful Back to Front tour last year, including the LG Arena on November 28. The new shows will continue to feature the original So live band, and span Gabriel's illustrious career including a performance of So in its entirety.

Tickets go on sale from, available from www.theticketfactory.com or 0844 338 8000.

MP is speaker

WEST Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey, will be the keynote speaker at the Tenanted Pub Company Summit this summer. Held at The Landmark, London, on June 12 it will explore issues affecting the leased pub market. There are about 27,000 UK leased pubs.

Call to axe rule over mothers in contest

ORGANISERS of the prestigious Miss Birmingham competition have been urged to axe a rule banning young mothers from the contest.

Regulations bar anyone over the age of 24 as well as married women and anyone who has a child. But the ban has been branded 'old-fashioned' by city beauty queen Kris'ina Jagpal, who wore the coveted sash in 2012.

The Birmingham University fashion design student, who came second place in last year's Miss Great Britain after scooping the Miss Birmingham crown, said: "You can still be a mother and part of something big."

The 26-year-old, from Edgbaston, added: "It is old fashioned. It is a new age and everyone should be given a new opportunity."

A spokesman for Miss England, which runs the Birmingham event, stressed the 'no mothers' ruling has been forced upon them. The ban has been instigated by Miss World organisers. "It's there for the children's welfare. If you win Miss World, you spend a year travelling the world."

Miss Birmingham takes place on Sunday, at The Crescent Theatre in Birmingham city centre.

Dexy's date in Midlands

AHEAD of their much-anticipated appearance at Glastonbury, the Black Country's own Dexy's play one date in the Midlands.

Formerly Dexy's Midnight Runners, the band will return to the Midlands to play the Coventry Kasbah on Wednesday, June 25.

The band will play a slightly edited version of their acclaimed One Day I'm Going to Soar show, plus a few Dexy's favourites.

To date, the show has been a critical success wherever it has been performed. Tickets are now on sale at www.seetickets.com.

Charity match

A CHARITY football match created by former Aston Villa star Stiliyan Petrov has been preserved on film by a Black Country production company. Highlights can be viewed on Stone's Throw Media's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDvwSkJBusE

'Failure to consult' on GP closure criticised

A COUNCIL health watchdog has written to the Government to criticise NHS England's 'failure to consult' with 2,500 patients before a GP surgery was closed.

Sandwell Council's health scrutiny board has written to the Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt to criticise what it calls the 'failure to consult' with the patients of Malling Health in Wednesbury before it closed last Friday.

Chiefs say in their letter they first warned NHS England they needed the council-owned land back, where the surgery was sited, so they could begin work on a leisure centre next door last June. Bosses then claim NHS England decided not to renew the surgery's contract in January but did not inform them.

Councillor Paul Sandars, who chairs the board, wrote: "The scrutiny board was not informed of this decision but found out by chance from local ward councillors. In addition to this there was also a failure to engage patients in the decision making process. By the time Scrutiny discovered the proposal, effectively it was too late for other options, including the relocation of the premises, to be considered.

"The relocation of the practice would not have been feasible without the three month lead in time required for IT purposes.

"The Scrutiny Board wanted to ensure that the best possible outcomes were achieved for local residents who were patients of the surgery, the achievement of this was impeded by a lack of consultation on proposals to close the surgery."

A petition with more than 800 signatures calling for the centre to remain open was delivered to Parliament last month.

Both the Malling Health and The Spires health centre were due to have new premises as part of a £9 million new health scheme due to be built in High Bullen.

The centre, originally known as the '2010 project' because of when it was due for completion, has not yet begun, though NHS England has insisted it is 'committed in principle' to the scheme. Bosses at the cash-strapped council have said they cannot bank land indefinitely for the benefit of the NHS, if no progress is due to be made on schemes. Malling Health was originally given a five-year contract, which was due to expire by the time it should have relocated to the new health centre.

Overcrowding biggest bugbear for tram users

OVERCROWDING has been identified as the biggest bugbear for tram passengers in the West Midlands, according to a watchdog.

Passenger Focus carried out a survey of 556 passengers on the Midland Metro service, which runs from Wolverhampton to Birmingham. The study found that most passengers were happy with the service, which compared favourably with other forms of public transport.

However, the biggest source of complaints surrounded a lack of space.

While the service was praised for the condition of its vehicles, punctuality and journey times, 30 per cent identified the lack of personal space as a problem and a quarter said they were dissatisfied with the availability of seating or standing areas.

Two-thirds of passengers in the West Midlands said it represented satisfactory value for money, although 18 per cent thought the fares were too expensive.

Paul Griffiths, Metro programme director at public transport authority Centro, said he was pleased with the findings of the survey.

He added that a new £40 million fleet of larger trams would be running from the summer onwards, alleviating the problems with crowding. The new trams will be a third bigger than the existing stock, able to carry around 210 passengers, compared to 156 on the current model.

"This, together with a frequency of 10 trams an hour, will increase overall capacity by 40 per cent, easing the overcrowding that sometimes occurs during peak times as a result of the Metro's popularity," he said.

Almost half of respondents said they would use the trams more often were it not for the crowding on board.

Let battle of bands commence

SOME of the West Midlands' best local bands are set to rock Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall when it hosts the climax of the 2014 Battle of the Bands competition tomorrow, Friday.

Talented young rock and pop musicians aiming for a future in the music industry will take to the stage hoping to emulate the likes of Johnny Marr, The Temperance Movement and The Fun Lovin' Criminals.

The contest is now down to its final five bands who will be aiming to impress a set of music industry judges. The event, which returned to the popular city venue after a four-year hiatus, has already seen 24 young bands battle it out since it was launched last September.

Bands competing for the coveted title are four-piece metallers Husk and indie band The Regulars, both from Wolverhampton, Walsall's Mr George's Famous Last Words and The Nics and Birmingham riff merchants Lynus.

Tickets are £6.60, available at www.wolvescivic.co.uk or by calling Midland Box Office on 0870 3207000.

Dead good fundraiser set for city

The three characters being used to promote the event, dressed in outfits similar to the film Shaun of the Dead

THE streets of Britain's second biggest city will look the scene from a horror film when more than 2,000 people dressed as the undead take to the streets, all in aid of charity

Following a successful march through the city last year in aid of the Birmingham Children's Hospital, thousands of fundraisers will once again don zombie make-up and attire and take to the streets to scare up some funds. The increasingly popular event, which is due to take part on September 13 this year, is the brainchild of seasoned flash mob organiser Jamie Chapman – who this year won the Birmingham Inspire Young Fundraiser of the Year award.

"It's been awesome watching the Zombie Walk grow since it first started back in 2009, when less than 100 people turned up. It's crazy to think that the event now attracts thousands, all wanting to have fun and raise money for a good cause," explains the 23-year-old from Sutton Coldfield. The walk, this year supported by Free Radio, is set to take place in central Birmingham with registered participants donating money to have professional make-up and litres of fake blood applied.This will be followed by a mass Zombie Walk around the city centre.

Birmingham Children's Hospital Events Manager, Lucie O'Reilly, said: "We have been overwhelmed by the support of the Zombie Walk team who have raised almost £15,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital."

NEWS in brief

Reminder of TV licence lower fee

HUNDREDS of blind people and their families are being reminded to claim a 50 per cent discount on their TV licence. Last year more than 37,400 blind concessionary licences were issued, including over 240 in Sandwell.

Anyone who lives with someone severely sight-impaired, who has a full fee TV Licence in their name, can transfer the licence to the name of the person affected. They can fill in the form available at tvlicensing.co.uk/blind

JLR hailed for overseas sales

JAGUAR Land Rover has been awarded a Queen's Award for Enterprise in International Trade, for 'outstanding overseas sales growth over the last three years'.

It follow a record last yearwhen JLR sold 425,006 vehicles in more than 170 countries, 80 per cent of cars at Solihull, Castle Bromwich and Halewood go for export.

From early next year Wolverhampton will be added to that list, with its new £500 million plant.

Food firm boss to be speaker

THE boss of a giant family food company will be the main speaker at a networking breakfast for businesses next month.

The event will be hosted at East End Foods's headquarters in West Bromwich on May 8, with the firm's chairman, Tony Deep Wouhra as main speaker.

For more information call Steve Massey on 07929 353232 or email stephen_massey@sandwell.gov.uk.

Ex-EastEnder Shaun in farce

FORMER EastEnders stars Shaun Williamson and Emma Barton will be coming to the West Midlands next month in an acclaimed comedy play.

The duo will be appearing in One Man, Two Guvnors which runs at Birmingham Hippodrome from May 26 to 31. The farce surrounds a failed skiffle musician.

Boost for airport

MORE than 600,000 passengers passed through Birmingham Airport last month, a 4.5 per cent increase compared to March last year. Flights to China are due to start this summer.

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IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

SO after years of being told to cut down on our drinking, at last there's an expert who has come up with some advice we can all raise a glass to.

Dr Kari Poiklainen, who used to work for the World Health Organisation now says its okay to drink six pints a day.

Or if beer's not your bag, a full bottle of wine is all right too.

He says 'moderate' drinking is better for your health than abstinence, which in itself is probably not that controversial. But it is his definition of moderation which might raise one or two eyebrows.

Apparently, Dr Poiklainen – try saying that after six pints of Banks's – reckons anything up to 13 units a day should be ok.

To put that into context, the Government's recommended limit is 14 units a week for women, and 21 for men. Or in the traditionally po-faced US, it's 14 units a week full stop. In fact, you may remember a while back they tried stopping anybody from drinking anything at all, and that worked out, didn't it?

Still, Dr Poiklainen has been researching the effects of alcohol for years, something I have no difficulty in believing.

And you have to say, the prospect of joining for a spot of his 'research' does sound rather good fun, doesn't it? You know, ask him nicely, and he might take you on a tour of some of his favourite labs.

Predictably, the anti-drinking establishment has been unimpressed by the Finnish experts' work, with Julia Manning of the think-tank 2020Health, describing his claims as 'an unhelpful contribution to the debate.'

Now I tend to be deeply sceptical of anyone who thinks that jumbling up letters and numerals, with no gap in between, is the hallmark of a modern, progressive organisation.

And I really would like to believe Dr Poiklainen, who of course has a book to sell, but on this occasion I fear Mrs Manning might be right.

My first reaction on reading about Dr Poiklainen's work was that I wished he was my doctor. I mean, who wouldn't want to be told it's ok to live every day like closing-time at Oktoberfest?

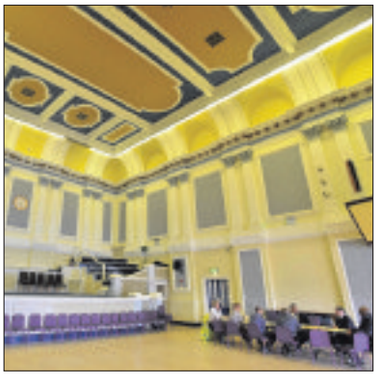
But having thought about it again, perhaps not.

No doubt, Dr Poiklainen is a very well respected, educated man. I'm sure he has got lots of letters after his name – come to mention it, he's got a fair few letters in his name, hasn't he?

But when push comes to shove, I'm not sure he's the type of man I would want to be brandishing the scalpel during a delicate piece of surgery.

Not after he's been on a 'moderate' drinking session, anyway.

Volunteer Alf Young with a window in the chamber room



A view of the huge refurbished main entertainment hall

An old gas light and stained glass window

Hall new look after venue is revamped

ADAM GRINSELL reports on the changes taking place at the ever-popular Wednesbury Town Hall

IT has been a meeting place for generations and now a town hall has undergone a £500,000 transformation as it looks ahead to a bright future.

From hosting ballroom dances to staging visits from pops tars, Wednesbury Town Hall is in great demand.

There has been a huge increase in the number of visitors, with an estimated footfall in the past three years of around 50,000.

This has prompted the six figure investment in the building which has included the creation of a new box office.

The interior has also been spruced up with a lick of paint and new fittings, and Sandwell Council housing staff have moved in to the improved offices.

Facilities

The authority is spending more than £300,000 relocating some of its staff from its housing office to the town hall, on Holyhead Road, so some residents can go in to pay their rent.

It has spent a further £200,000 on improving its facilities for community groups that use the building.

A lift for disabled visitors has been installed, which takes the place of a storage cupboard, as well as a toilet.

Meanwhile councillors will also be talking to energy company Eon about the possibility of fitting 'down lights' to brighten up the building at night.

There is also a new box office telephone number for booking tickets, while the group that organises events at the hall, Wednesbury Celebrates, has taken on two caravans in Wales that people can book for holidays. Councillor Elaine Costigan, who represents the Wednesbury North ward, has welcomed the refurbishment work.

Taking the keys in – Olwen Jones, Elaine Costigan and Tom Hogan

She said: "It's nice to see a town hall coming back into use, and it gets pensioners out and alleviates loneliness.

"It's just absolutely wonderful, and great news for Wednesbury."

Keys to the building have been handed back to the council and the first event after the reopening is tomorrow night with the Wednesbury Community Awards.

They aim to reward people who work tirelessly for the good of their community.

People have been able to nominate their unsung heroes for eight categories.

They are Improving the Environment, Bringing Communities Together, Working with Adults and Older People, Community Safety, Community Friendly Trader, Working with Children and Young People, Community Learning and The Wednesbury Star.

Britain's Got Talent favourite and town hall regular Jean Martyn will be joined by the D-Day Darlings for St George's Day celebrations on April 24.

Jean rose to fame on the TV talent show in 2011 when she wowed crowds with her energetic keyboard playing.

The town hall was built at the rear of the Public Offices on Holyhead road in 1867 and opened on June 26 1874.

In recent years the venue has gone from strength to strength and has recently announced former Pop Idol star Gareth Gates will be performing there later this year.

The celebrity recently returned to the limelight in the latest series of reality show The Reunion and after touring the UK with Dancing on Ice he will take to the stage on June 20.

Legendary

Organisers are expecting a crowd of at least 400 to turn out for Gates' appearance.

The Wednesbury Celebrates Community Association group, which manages events at the hall, have had a number of sell-out gigs at the centre and have already hosted legendary American band, The Drifters.

The Wednesbury Celebrates started by organising a few evening celebration events and concerts for local people. The association organises monthly dinner dances and luncheons as well as a variety of social classes including zumba, line dancing and indoor bowls.

The centre also holds keep fit classes for the over 55s and dance classes tailored for the over 50s.

The town hall's new box office number is 0121 556 4914 and is open five days a week.

Tickets for events can be bought in person or over the phone on Monday and Tuesday 10 – 2pm, Wednesday 12-8pm and Thursday and Friday 12-2pm.

For more information on the venue or for details of private hire please visit the website at www.wednesburycelebrates.org.uk

POLITICS

WITH DANIEL WAINWRIGHT

CRISIS? What crisis? Apparently Ed Miliband's cost-of-living crisis is over, if it ever existed at all.

That's the argument advanced by the Chancellor and Tory MPs as they claim 'compelling evidence' that the economic strategy is working.

Wages are growing faster than inflation, unemployment is down and house sales (not to mention prices) are up. So why the growth in food bank use then?

People who want to claim politicians are all just the same might want to look a bit more closely.

As Parliament went into recess, MPs were suggesting a very different picture of Britain's progress.

Gavin Williamson, the always friendly and cheerful MP for South Staffordshire, says 83,000 more people are in work since the Tories didn't quite come to power.

"That means 83,000 more hard-working people bringing home a regular pay packet, giving them and their family more financial security for the future," he said.

Labour has a very different view of the 'secure future' we are embarking on.

Dudley MP Ian Austin says a record 93,461 people used West Midlands food banks in the last year, including 35,425 children. He suggests 'thousands of families in the West Midlands face a cost- of-living crisis and the benefits system is in chaos'.

Those figures are from the Trussell Trust charity. And the Government thinks they might be making a rod for their own back.

An unnamed spokesman for the Department for Work and Pensions said: "Even the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development says there are fewer people struggling with their food bills compared with a few years ago, benefit processing times are improving and the Trussell Trust's own research recognises the effect their marketing activity has on the growth of their business."

It comes down to your point of view. Fewer people struggle with food bills, but food bank use has grown.

❑❑❑❑❑❑

Wolverhampton MP Pat McFadden made some remarks in a broadcast interview this week that he wants a Labour party that 'takes wealth creation every bit as seriously as its fair distribution'. The remarks were seized upon by some of the national papers as a sign that he did not think his party leadership had a workable economic plan.

In fact the Blairite MP for Wolverhampton South East's views on this are well known. What were not picked up were his concerns over the prospect of Britain leaving the European Union. He calls the possibility the 'biggest economic threat facing the country'.

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Miller's unbelievable arrogance

ONCE you accept, as a truism, the fact that the vast majority of MPs are self-serving it's hard to be surprised by anything they do, but the sheer arrogance of Maria Miller, and the hypocrisy of Cameron has to be seen to be believed!

We're all in this together has been the oft-repeated refrain from David Cameron as he's tried to emphasise the need for belt tightening and restraint in the wake of the necessary cuts. However, we are not all in this together judging by the bonuses that continue to reward failure in the financial sector, and certainly we are not all in this together if you happen to be a 'gravy train' riding MP.

Despite being told to repay the £45,000 of fraudulent expenses she claimed by the Parliamentary Standards Committee, the MPs on the Standards Committee reduced this to £5,800 for their colleague, Maria Miller!

After a brief, a very brief, period of public anger generated curbs on their playboy lifestyle, their snouts are, once again, firmly back in the trough!

K O' KEEFE, Tipton

Fears on locos' coal

I SEE they are closing the coalmine at Thoresby in Nottinghamshire. We all know by now about the fire that closed down the Daw Mill Colliery in Warwickshire, and they are considering closing down the mine Kellingley in Yorkshire.

That will only leave one deep mine at Hatfield in Yorkshire. But what I would like to know is, will it affect the running of all these steam locos, like we have running on these heritage steam railways we have on the Severn Valley Railway?

I don't know whether this is true, but someone told me about a month ago, that some of these heritage steam railways have been getting coal for their locos from Russia. But if it's true, with all this going on with Russia at the moment, will that put the mockers on running them?

F H JENNINGS
Birmingham

High price to pay for Public deal

IT SEEMS an agreement has been drawn up with the college to take over The Public, and that the cost is £43k + vat.

With what appears to be a glorified lease, why has the council not got a lawyer or surveyor who could do the honours? If you rent somewhere you hardly expect to pay £43k for a rental agreement. Just how many hours and at what hourly rate did this take?

Leader Councillor Cooper asks us to draw a line under the costs. Why? It cost a fortune; it was 'council' for funding yet 'private' to see the books! The council says it will 'save' money over 25 years. This is like saying if I do not buy a Ferrari for £200,000 I will save that money, yet I am no better off am I? Further surely the £1.5 running annual costs should have been known before it was built.

If the college has the same £1.5m cost, plus £460k annual rent, they will need £2m in student fees before wages, etc. Where is this coming from?

R W WHITE, Wigmore

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Sandwell.chron
@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Unfair treatment of young Yashika

RE the case of Yashika Bageerathi, the student locked up then deported from Britain surrounded by security guards in the run up to her A levels. Leaving aside the gloating expressions of gutter racism, 'rules are rules and sympathy doesn't come into it' was typical of the online comments.

Two points on this. Firstly what kind of country are we if sympathy doesn't come in to it?

Yashika's life in Mauritius was plagued by a drug-dealing uncle. It's hardly surprising she wanted to stay here when her visa expired, especially as she'd started to put down roots and was thriving at school.

It's not her fault that asylum assessment has a narrow frame of reference, nor is it her fault an abusive relative isn't a box ticker. From what I can gather, essentially her claim was refused because she wasn't the right kind of victim of the right kind of violence from the right part of the world, not because she'd lied on the form or anywhere else.

Secondly, just because something is asserted it doesn't make it factually correct. My understanding is a High Court judge has considerable powers of discretion, as does a Home Secretary.

Another judge might have granted the injunction to delay her deportation and, failing that, another Home Secretary might have overturned the judgement.

R WARRINGTON
Tipton

Asbos pair remain free

REGARDING your report on the Oakley brothers from Wolverhampton and their imminent 'starring role' on the television.

Increasingly we see people like this treated like heroes, which they evidently are not. Instead of being in a prison cell which is where they clearly should be, we see them roving out and about the streets of Wolverhampton clearly up to no good.

What a damning indictment on the actual effectiveness of these ASBOs. That indeed must be progress!

S STROUD,
Wednesbury

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Fans relish chance to watch Baggies train

LOYAL Baggies fans got the chance to see their heroes up close at an exclusive training session at The Hawthorns.

Around 90 members of the West Bromwich Albion Disabled Supporters Club, the Albion Foundation and their families headed to the ground for the 12th open day.

Training was taken by head coach Pepe Mel as the players were put through their paces on the Hawthorns pitch in a change from their usual Great Barr venue. Started during Gary Megson's reign, the day offers disabled supporters the chance to take in a training session at the stadium, where facilities are available, and to meet the squad before presenting their player of the year award, as voted for by members.

After the training session, midfielder Youssouf Mulumbu was named player of the year by the club's disabled supporters. James Day, aged 18 and from Brook Road in Portobello, Wolverhampton, and his dad Barry, 48, have been members of the club since they became season ticket holders around five years ago.

The open day is a red letter event in the calendar for James, who plays for one of Albion's young disabled teams. Barry said: "He just loves this because he meets the players. We come here every year and have a great time."

James, whose current favourite is Stephane Sessegnon, added: "I love meeting the players, I make them laugh. There was this one year when I said to Shane Long that he was my second favourite player after Peter Odemwingie."

The Disabled Supporters Club, which has around 35 members, has been in existence for around 17 years after being founded by three fans whose views in the Birmingham Road stand would sometimes be blocked by TV cameras. One of those men, wheelchair user Stephen Brettle, aged 52, from Knaresdale Close in Stourbridge, said: "The world was totally different then, and football and disability has completely transformed since.

"Before we only had the Birmingham Road end to sit in, now we have the East Stand too.

"Primarily now, if anyone has any issues with the Albion we are a voice for them. I think we have a good working relationship with Albion."

Mr Brettle is also a member of national group Level Playing Field.

Pepe Mel with players on the pitch

Ernie Hughes meets Ben Foster

Suraj Dail, with Saido Berahino

Marley George, aged 15, with Pepe Mel

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Check out new look for business quarter

From left, Rob Valentine, CBD, Mike Mounfield, CBD, Peter Dunlop, Capita, and Jason Jackson, Shoosmiths

WOOD, stone and shining steel beckon in a new look for Birmingham's business quarter as the latest project to improve public spaces in the city centre is completed.

Colmore Business District (CBD) has completed the latest part of its long-term improvements to the area by carrying out enhancements to Colmore Square. The area in between Colmore Row and Steelhouse Lane has been improved over the last year with new soft landscaping as well as feature lighting and benches at a cost of £350,000. The square now also contains a chess garden, featuring two stone tables with inset chessboards.

Rob Valentine, of CBD, said: "We are committed to investing in our open spaces to create a more walkable, sustainable and high quality city centre." A launch event is due on May 8 in Shoosmiths at Two Colmore Square.

Patients' increased flexibility to see GP

MORE than 60,000 patients will have greater flexibility to see their GP where and when they want to under plans created by a new health group that wants to make healthcare 'fit for the 21st Century.'

The consortium called Health United Birmingham (HUB) has been created to make it easier for people in Sandwell and Birmingham to speak to and see their doctors.

by Tom Mason

HUB is a partnership between two GP partnerships, Vitality and Bellevue and a healthcare technology and change management company, Digital Life Sciences.

It aims to redesign services in both areas by using the latest technology to bring GP services into the 21st century. Sarb Basi, Vitality Partnership chief operation officer, said: "We believe this is the right thing for our patients and are looking forward to an exciting next 12 months putting together what is a very innovative, high quality, primary care approach."

One of its key aims is to keep GP services open longer and later so that patients can see their doctor between 8am and 8pm seven days a week.

Along with longer opening hours the group plans to introduce an instant messaging service to allow patients talk to clinicians about how they are feeling and share information about their condition without needing to visit a practice.

They also plan to introduce a shared information system that will allow patients records to be shared quickly by doctors and nurses. Consultants will also be placed at practices, reducing the number of trips taken to hospitals.

Karen Helliwell, Director of Commissioning, NHS England Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country, said: "Improving access to GPs is imperative to prevent health problems storing up and to avoid pressure on our hospitals."

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In the bag for post office success

From left, Ann Bond, Carol Mincher, Laurence and Sue Steatham, Paul and Chris Bott and postmistress Min Dhadl

A POST office which moved into a new home last month is already being 'inundated' with customers and support from the community. Moxley Post Office moved from Roberts Close to Kendrick News, in Kendrick Road, last month as part of the major modernisation programme across the Post Office network.

It aims to make it easier for customers to do business, through longer opening hours and modern open plan environments. The move allowed the post office to extend its opening hours and allow access to services seven days a week. A shake-up in postal services has included a fight to keep the pillar box in Roberts Close, Moxley, in use.

Animal hospital hope

A NEW £2 million animal hospital has taken a step forward after plans were recommended for approval.

The plans come after an increase in demand for services by the PDSA at its current base in Hagley Road, Quinton.

The new centre would be built on Wolverhampton Road, in Oldbury, if councillors back the scheme. The charity has been raising money to fund the construction of the new hospital, which would have a spacious, two-storey waiting area, which has been designed to keep the area well ventilated.

The rest of the building would be single storey and have two operating theatres, a dental theatre and six consulting rooms as well as staff accommodation. Plans to build a new animal hospital in the borough have been in the pipeline since 2011.

A letter sent to Sandwell Council's planning department by Anthony Keith Architects Ltd on behalf of the charity said: "The PDSA is a charity which provides veterinary services free to those who cannot afford them and has a centre on Hagley Road, Quinton which is too small for their current needs.

"The staff from Hagley Road will be transferred to the new centre and additional staff taken on."

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Victor's visit kicks off retirement for head

A HEADTEACHER who gave decades of service to Sandwell schools had a surprise visit from a favourite player from his beloved West Bromwich Albion to congratulate him on retirement.

Chris Evans, headteacher of Moat Farm Junior School for the past 13 years, began his retirement on Friday.

Before the father-of-two, a season ticket holder in the Halfords Lane West Stand for the past 20 years, began his retirement however, he had a visit from Baggies striker Victor Anichebe at the school.

The Brookfields Road school, inOldbury, held a special Albion day in his honour.

The forward, who began at The Hawthorns earlier this season from Everton, posed for photographs with children and presented an Albion home shirt signed by the squad to Mr Evans.

Victor seen with headmaster and Baggies season ticket holder Chris Evans

The Albion player seen among some of the children at Moat Farm Junior School

Timbertree

Mr Evans, aged 58, said: "One of the school's trust partners is the Albion Foundation so I think it was a bit of their work and some of the other teachers to organise this.

"It was a nice surprise for me. He [Anichebe] is just as big in the flesh as he looks from the stands – it was very kind of him to come and to bring in a signed shirt as well."

Mr Evans had spent his 37-year teaching career in Sandwell schools, beginning at the old Gorse Farm Junior School in Hamstead.

He went on to work at Timbertree Primary in Cradley Heath, Causeway Green Primary in Oldbury and Shireland Hall Primary in Smethwick.

That was before spells at Cornegreaves Primary in Cradley Heath, where he was deputy head, and then his first headteacher's post at Ryders Green Primary in West Bromwich.

Lucy Morris, deputy head teacher at the school, added: "Victor Anichebe's visit made the retirement celebrations really special.

"I'm not sure who as more excited, Mr Evans or the children. He had no idea, and to have Victor present Chris with the shirt made the day even more memorable." Ben Pollard, from the Albion Foundation, which organised the visit, said: "It was fantastic that Victor took time out of his day to present the shirt to Chris.

"The children were thrilled to see a WBA player. He happily posed for photographs and signed autographs

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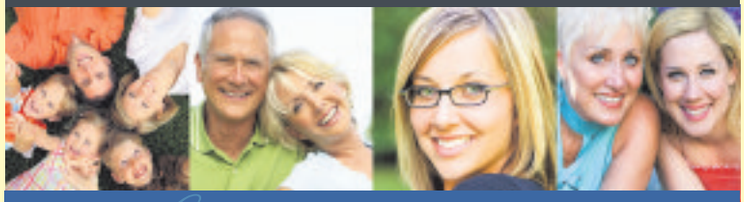

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Canvas coverings are on the next building to be brought down

Buildings' disappearance from Chamberlain Square

The completed Central Library, which opened in 1974, and example of Brutalist architecture

Slowly changing, as buildings are taken down

The opening image showing the square in the early 1960s

Snapper sheds light on how city squared up to drastic changes

IT is one of the most recognisable sites in the West Midlands. And now you can see Birmingham's Chamberlain Square as it was in years gone by thanks to the work of an amateur photographer.

It was back in the 1960s and 1970s when research chemist and amateur photographer Derek Fairbrother set about a task to document the changes in the city.

He focused his camera lens on Chamberlain Square, making more than 20 photographic time-lapse sequences of the public piazza.

The footage has been used to show how the site has developed into the busy metropolis it is today.

And while almost everything else has changed one landmark has remained throughout the site's reinvention – a lasting memorial to a city mayor as the focal point in Chamberlain Square.

MEMORY LANE

By Andrew Turton

The square was named after former mayor of Birmingham, Joseph Chamberlain, who was a leading industrialist in the fledging city in the late 1800s.

The Chamberlain Memorial stands 65 ft tall with its neo-gothic style reminiscent of the Albert Memorial which inside Kensington Gardens opposite the Royal Albert Hall.

The first images that Mr Fairbrother took are from the mid-1960s when the council had removed the pools around the fountain. It casts a completely different scene to what visitors would see today as the memorial marked a busy road junction in the centre of the city. The road on the right of the images is Congreve Street, which used to end at Great Charles Street.

It is now that space that runs to the right of the old Central Library, looking down to Summer Row.

The images also give a guide to how the giant concrete library rose up, devouring two famous old buildings which once stood at the square. These buildings that are shown bring taken down brick-by-brick, to make way for the Central Library were in Edmund Street.

The large building dominating the images is believed to be the old Mason College which had became the University of Birmingham. But soon the landscape was due to dramatically changed as canvas sheets were draped over the college building.

The images show this grand old building lowering over time as the time-lapse pictures reveal workers slowly clearing the building from the skyline. One benefit of the clearance was the opening up of the view to show the grand art-deco architecture of Baskerville House off Centenary Square.

Formerly offices for parts of Birmingham City Council, including the planning department, the Grade II listed building was vacant for several years after workers vacated the property in the spring of 1998. But now it is home to plush offices thanks to a £30 million refurbishment finished in 2007.

The time-lapse footage moves onto show how council bosses pursued plans to create the inner city ring road. Other buildings are shown being taken down when this area was completely remodelled as traffic was taken away from the area.

Historian and Express & Star columnist Professor Carl Chinn has helped document the dramatic changes in Birmingham through the years. And he says the time-lapse footage is a record of many of the city's famous former landmarks. "Unhappily we lost many wonderful buildings of architectural and civic merit," he said.

"I was a youngster when these changes were happening but I do know that nobody consulted ordinary citizens in those days so that their views, sadly, meant little to planners and developers. Some people might say that not much has changed despite consultation processes."

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Special award for team leader Tracey

A group of students are on a 12-week personal development programme through the Prince's Trust

A YOUTH worker has been recognised for helping to transform the lives of more than 100 young people.

Prince's Trust team leader Tracey Powell, who studies at City of Wolverhampton College, was nominated in the West Bromwich Community Regeneration Awards for her outstanding contribution to the town.

She picked up her certificate at a ceremony at West Bromwich Town Hall.

Ms Powell has spent the last four years working as a team leader on the Prince's Trust's 12-week team programme, working with vulnerable young adults, many of whom have now moved on to further education,voluntary work or employment.

She said: "I'm very privileged to do what I do and feel it is the students who put in all the effort – my job is to help them."

The next Prince's Trust Team starts at Wednesbury Fire Station on May 27. Details on 01902 836000.

Project to improve supply of water ends

A MULTI-MILLION pound scheme to improve emergency water supplies to homes and businesses is now in place as part of a pioneering project.

The £2.3m initiative has seen two-and-a-half miles of new pipes installed between Barr Beacon reservoir in Walsall and Perry Barr reservoir.

The work has been carried out to ensure there is a back up water supply. The project is the first of its kind as it involves linking one of Severn Trent's reservoirs with another belonging to South Staffs Water.

Programme manager, John Tuck said: "Two and a half miles of new water pipes have been installed between Perry Barr reservoir and Barr Beacon reservoir in Walsall. We've done this so if there's a problem with our system, we can re-route water from our neighbouring supplier.

"This will mean that customers who might have been without water for a short time should still continue to receive their water supply. We've worked closely with South Staffs Water to carry out this important improvement. Since work was finished in December we've been testing the new pipes and are now delighted to see they're working. This was a very ambitious project and is the first time that we've been able to move water from a South Staffs Water reservoir to a Severn Trent one. Working together means that all of our customers can benefit from a more reliable water supply in the future."

by Charlotte Lilley

Keith Marshall, South Staffs Water's deputy managing director, said: "We are delighted with the outcome."

Roadworks were in place around Streetly while the work took place, with George Frederick Road closed, and Mr Tuck praised everyone for their understanding. We'd like to say a big thank you to the local community for their patience while the work was being carried out."

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Focus on Smethwick and Bearwood

Town pub set to be firm's 32nd

A GROWING pub and brewing company hopes to open another outlet in the West Midlands in early July, after work started on converting a former HSBC branch in Bearwood Road, Bearwood.

Black Country Ales was started in 1999 by Angus McMeeking, a former director of pubs for M&B and Highgate Brewery by initially buying The Old Bull's Head in Redhall Road, Lower Gornal.

Director Mr McMeeking said that the old banking hall would have a bar offering a minimum of 10 different beers including three of BCA's own.

It is inviting people to suggest names for what will become the 32nd pub in its chain.

Mr McMeeking, who is originally from Nottinghamshire, said that the "slow but sure" success of the business was being built on growing enthusiasm for real ale in the Black Country and wider West Midlands.

"Our pubs try to make sure they get the beers in from the new breweries and keep the range they offer as interesting as they can for our customers," he said.

"When we started the demand for real ale was mainly from middle-aged blokes, but we are now seeing a dramatic increase in younger drinkers of real ale. More women are using our pubs as well," he added.

Bell sounds for Elizabeth after 40 years at school

THE last dinner bell has rung for a lunchtime supervisor who has been patrolling the playground of a school in Smethwick for the last four decades.

Children and staff at Abbey Junior School have said goodbye to Elizabeth Sankey who has been carrying out lunchtime duties at the school in Barclay Road for 40 years.

by Tom Mason

Her time as a supervisor at the school began in1974, when she left her job in an office and took the role on, as it allowed her to spend time with her children Heather and David during the long summer holidays.

However, it wasn't the first occasion she had spent time at Abbey School having been a pupil there before leaving in 1953. The 72-year-old, from Wigorn Road, Bearwood, said: "I have loved my time at the school it's been really enjoyable.

"The school hasn't changed that much since I was here, it's just a lot airier than it used to be. It was weird coming back to the school after leaving here, everything was much smaller than I remembered.

During her time as dinner lady, she has seen hundreds of children come and go and even looked after two generations of the same families.

"We have members of staff in this school that where here when I started and their children have come through the school since," said the grandmother-of-two.

"You have got to love children and enjoy working with them to do the job. It takes a lot of work to you required from them, but I would do it all again."

She said the reason she retired was to allow her to spend her time doing the thing she enjoyed the most and hoped to spend her retirement reading, completing her tapestry and gardening with her husband Peter.

The school's deputy head Tracey Flanagan said: "We say a sad and fond farewell to a much loved member of our team with over 40 years of dedicated service to our school. We would like to thank her for her hard work and commitment. So many children have passed through our school and have met Mrs Sankey. Abbey School wishes her a happy and long retirement."

The 360-pupil school was opened in 1910 when King Edward VII was on the throne.

Elizabeth Sankey after being presented with a bouquet, she shows pupils some old photos of her at the school

New soup kitchen in award win

A NEW soup kitchen has been presented with a community project award. Smethwick in a Stew is continuing this year thanks to an anonymous £10,000 donation.

Originally based at the Dorothy Parkes centre in Bearwood, it has now moved to the cafe at Smethwick Library.

The project itself is community-based and volunteer-led, with assistance and partial funding from Sandwell Council, and has now scooped the community project project at the Smethwick Community Awards ceremony. Leading the project are Bearwood husband and wife Richard and Marie Marshall.

Abbey ward Councillor Bob Piper said: "Well done to all involved in the Smethwick in a Stew soup kitchen which has provided over 1,000 free meals to people in Smethwick."

Sales up for Persimmon

THE booming housing market gave a boost to Black Country firm Persimmon, with forward sales 35 per cent ahead of the same time last year.

Sales have soared past the £1.8bn mark for Britain's third biggest house builder, which added that private sales for the first 15 weeks of the year are up 25 per cent on 2013.

Persimmon has a total of around 395 active sites in the UK, including Booth's Farm in Great Barr.

Roll along for Role play night

AMATEUR dramatics lovers are being urged to book tickets for a popular group's traditional May performance.

The All Saints Players, which performs at All Saints Church, West Bromwich, will be presenting RolePlay by Alan Ayckbourn.

The play is a comedy set in a flat in London Docklands and sees a hopelessly mismatched couple introduce their parents to one another over dinner, only to find they are just as different. Performances will run from May 20 to May 23. Tickets are priced £4.50 or £4 concessions, with curtain up at 7.30pm every night.

The group is also currently looking for new acting members in all age groups. Rehearsals take place on Tuesdays from 7.30pm-10pm. For more information call 0121 588 4786 or come along to the All Saints Way church on Tuesday evenings.

Hannah is filled in on perfect pies with James

A COOK from the Black Country spent the day with celebrity chef James Martin after winning a competition.

Hannah Williams, aged 23, won the exclusive cooking master class through a contest run by Vintage Inns during British Pie Week.

Pie fans were asked to send in pictures of themselves tucking into a Vintage Inn pie and the winners were then chosen at random and invited along to the event held at Aveqia in London.

Hannah, from Halesowen, was one of seven winners who were given the opportunity to spend the day cooking with the chef and perfecting the art of the dream pie.

She said: "I was absolutely overwhelmed that I won the competition and got to spend the day with James.

"I entered the competition after enjoying a meal at the Swallows Nest in Romsey as I enjoy cooking and I'm a massive fan of James Martin.

"I had a brilliant day and really enjoyed myself. I've learned lots of new tips from James that I'll certainly be trying out at home."

Mr Martin said: "Hannah really enjoyed the cooking class and put 100 per cent effort into all her dishes.

"I taught her how to make a classic ponzo dressing which she loved and I hope she'll be making it for years to come."

Hannah Williams with celebrity chef James Martin

School is top form in St John accolade

A SCHOOL in Oldbury has gone to the top of the class after gaining the St John Ambulance Schools' Mark Award. Rounds Green Primary School has scooped the prestigious national award only given to schools that show a commitment to the safety and health of their pupils, workforce and wider community.

The school in Brades Road now joins only 27 schools across the West Midlands region to hold the title.

As part of their commitment all Year 1 to Year 6 pupils are trained to do CPR, call emergency services and deal with a variety of first aid scenarios – involving fractures, open wounds, burns and scalds.

As well as training some of its 442 pupils, the school also runs special first aid workshops where parents come into school and join in the learning experiencee.

For more information on St John Ambulance schools team contact the organisation on 08700 104950. If you are a teacher and are interested in teaching first aid, please visit www.teachthedifference.org.uk

Oil supply to airport cut off in theft probe

ONE of the UK's main underground oil pipes, which carries supplies to Birmingham Airport, has been shut down, after thieves were suspected of extracting fuel.

Two men have been arrested after a large quantity of diesel was discovered in a warehouse which police believe may have been taken from the Midline pipeline.

by Simon Stone

The Midline pipeline was built in the 1980s and runs underground carrying fuel through Wiltshire to the Midlands, including Birmingham International Airport.

Birmingham Airport said there had been no impact on the airport as a result of the shut down.

Police officers made the discovery in the warehouse in West Wellow, on the Hampshire/Wiltshire border, last Thursday.

The suspects, aged 32 and 34, were arrested in Salisbury, Wiltshire, and are being questioned by detectives from Hampshire police. It is understood that detectives are investigating whether the 30,000 litres of fuel was extracted from a pipeline running from the Esso refinery at Fawley.

Officials from the Environment Agency and health and safety experts have attended the crime scene to ensure the safety of the area.

An Esso spokesman said: "Esso is assisting Hampshire Police with their inquiries following the discovery of a store of fuel in the Romsey area.

"Early indications suggest that the fuel may have come from a nearby Esso pipeline. Investigations continue into whether this is the case. Esso is committed to the very highest standards of safety. The pipeline has therefore been closed down and our specialists are working to check it and, if necessary, effect any repair.

"We will not resume operations of the pipeline until this work is complete."

A Hampshire Police spokesman said two men, aged 32 and 34 from the Salisbury area, were in police custody for questioning on suspicion of conspiracy to steal fuel.

"Police launched an investigation after a large quantity of diesel was found in an industrial storage unit at West Wellow," he said.

"Lines of inquiry include establishing the exact amount of fuel stolen and examining the suspected sophisticated method used in this alleged theft.

"The discovery was made by the unit's owner at around 7.30pm on Thursday. It is believed to have been illegally obtained. The exact quantity and circumstances surrounding the accumulation of fuel are central to the investigation, and detectives are focusing on identifying those responsible."

Warning on road closures for event

MOTORISTS are being advised about rolling road closures in Smethwick during the annual Vaisakhi procession on Sunday between 6am and 11.30am.

To allow the parade to make its way from Smethwick High Street to Booth Street, the following roads will be temporarily closed: The B4169 High Street from its junction with St Alban's Road to its junction with High Street (A4030); A4030 High Street from its junction with High Street (B4169) to its junction with Tollhouse Way; Tollhouse Way from its junction with Crocketts Lane to its junction with Fenton Street; Rolfe Street from its junction with Tollhouse Way to its junction with Rabone Lane; Rabone Lane from its junction with Rolfe Street to its junction with Booth Street; Booth Street from its junction with Rabone Lane to the borough boundary.

From Booth Street the procession continues across the Sandwell borough boundary into Birmingham.

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Clarke CBS7MB METAL CUTTING BANDSAW

• Ideal for engineering plants, fabrication workshops & garages • Powerful 1Hp (750 Watt) 230V motor • Mitre Swivel Vice for accurate cutting • 4 blade speeds - 34, 41, 59 & 98 M/min

CLEARANCE £599.00 EX.VAT £718.80 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £1042.80 INC.VAT

Clarke PLS190N 186BAR HEAVY DUTY PETROL DRIVEN PRESSURE WASHER

• 6.5hp (4.8kW) 4 stroke petrol engine • Max water flow rate 12.6litres/min (756litres/hr) • Max pressure 186bar • Professional lance with protective shroud • Adjustable high pressure output • Detergent pick-up hose

CLEARANCE £289.98 EX.VAT £347.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £455.98 INC.VAT

Clarke ELS160R PRESSURE WASHER

• Portable pressure washer designed for both domestic and light industrial use • Maximum 150bar (2176psi) pump pressure • 12 metre high pressure hose reel attachment

CLEARANCE £279.98 EX.VAT £335.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £502.80 INC.VAT

Clarke DEVIL 1850 PROPANE FIRED SPACE HEATER

• Variable output 119,000 - 200,000 Btu/hr (approx. 35 to 58.5kW) • Adjustable stand • Dual voltage 110/230V • Dimensions (LWH) 725x460x535mm

CLEARANCE £219.98 EX.VAT £263.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £359.98 INC.VAT

Clarke JUMP START 1000

• Has the capacity to start petrol & diesel engines up to 3 litres • 230v mains charger and 12v adaptor for in-vehicle charging • Includes handy work light

CLEARANCE £54.99 EX.VAT £65.99 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £89.99 INC.VAT

Clarke SHHH AIR 5/24 COMPRESSOR

CLEARANCE £399.00 EX.VAT £478.80 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £886.80 INC.VAT

• 4.5cfm displacement • 25 litre air receiver • Total power consumption - 0.92hp, 230V • 8bar (115psi) maximum working pressure • Dimensions (LWH) - 580 x 320 x 580mm

Clarke CORDLESS IMPACT WRENCH - CIR450

• Powerful 24V, 1.7Ah Ni-Cd battery • 1/2" square drive • Max torque delivery 450Nm • Speed (no load): 2000rpm

CLEARANCE £89.98 EX.VAT £107.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £143.98 INC.VAT

Clarke PHASE CONVERTER - PC40

• 230v 1-phase input / 400 - 415v 3-phase output • Overload protection fuse - rated at 13amps

CLEARANCE £169.98 EX.VAT £203.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £322.80 INC.VAT

Clarke 8 DRAWER WORKBENCH - CWB1200P

CLEARANCE £149.98 EX.VAT £179.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £311.98 INC.VAT

• Extra thick heavy duty composite workbench • Adjustable rubber feet for uneven surfaces • Ball bearing drawers

Clarke CBS45MD (4 1/2" X 6") METAL CUTTING BANDSAW

• Cutting capacity - 105mm (4") round, 100 x 150mm (4" x 6") flat at 90° • 500W, 230v / 1ph motor • 3 cutting speeds 65/95/165 feet per minute

CLEARANCE £159.98 EX.VAT £191.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £274.80 INC.VAT

Clarke MIG 196 NO-GAS/GAS MIG WELDER

• Power settings from 40 – 180 amps. Welds mild steel 5-6mm thickness. • Turbo fan cooling for greater efficiency • Uses 0.6 / 0.8 / 1mm wire • Fully variable electronic wire speed control. • Operates from 230V power supply.

CLEARANCE £139.98 EX.VAT £167.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £239.98 INC.VAT

Clarke CLARKE CDP301B DRILL PRESS

• Chuck capacity 16mm (spindle taper MT2) • 12 speeds from 180 - 2740 RPM • 510 Watt, 230v / 1 phase electric motor (Totally Enclosed Fan Cooled) • Dimensions - chuck to column 167mm (horizontal) chuck to table 378mm max. (vertical)

CLEARANCE £149.98 EX.VAT £179.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £239.98 INC.VAT

Clarke 2.4KVA PORTABLE PETROL POWERED GENERATOR - FG2500

• 2.4kVA max. output at 230V from a 13Amp 3-pin socket • 6.5hp petrol engine with easy start recoil system • 4.5 litre fuel tank provides upto 4_ hours continuous running at _ load • Auxiliary 12V DC output for battery re-charging

CLEARANCE £139.98 EX.VAT £167.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £227.98 INC.VAT

Clarke 4" AIR ANGLE GRINDER - CAT52

• Operating pressure 6.2bar • Nominal air consumption 6cfm • Disc size 4" • Complete with side handle & safety trigger • Maximum speed 11,000rpm

CLEARANCE £29.98 EX.VAT £35.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £68.39 INC.VAT

Clarke 5 IN 1 JUMP START - JS5IN1

• Powerful jumpstart facility • Built-in compressor for inflating car/bike tyres, air beds and more • 300W inverter power supply • 2 x 12V DC power supplies • 2 x USB 5V DC power supplies • And an LED worklight

CLEARANCE £74.99 EX.VAT £89.99 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £119.98 INC.VAT

Clarke 8" PLANER/ THICKNESSER - CL CPT800

CLEARANCE £139.98 EX.VAT £167.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £227.98 INC.VAT

• Smoothes & planes timber lengths up to 203mm (8") wide x 120mm (41/2") thick • Adjustable planing depth up to 2mm (per pass) • 6M/min feed rate • Also includes a push stick & back fence

Clarke BC210C BATTERY CHARGER & ENGINE STARTER

• 200 Amp maximum boost. • 25 Amp maximum continuous charge (12/24Volts) • Mains input 230Volt • Panel features include main switch, variable power setting, polarity protection & charge rate indicator. • Tough, insulated battery connection clips & copper leads.

CLEARANCE £69.98 EX.VAT £83.58 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £113.99 INC.VAT

Clarke PATIO & DECKING CLEANER

• Can be used on horizontal or vertical surfaces • Suitable to use with the Clarke Jetstar 1000, 1700, 1800, 6000 and 6600 washers

CLEARANCE £12.99 EX.VAT £15.59 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £22.79 INC.VAT

Clarke CNG1C AIR NAIL GUN

• Drives F type (18 gauge) nails • Accomodates 15 to 50mm long nails • Max. magazine capacity approx. 100 nails • Air pressure requirement - 60 to 100psi • Dimensions 255 x 249mm • Weight 1.4kg

CLEARANCE £24.99 EX.VAT £29.99 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £44.39 INC.VAT

Clarke HDT2440 - 8FT FOLDING TABLE

• Durable hygienic wipe clean stone effect table top • Great for indoor and outdoor use • Folds completely flat • Quickly & easily folds flat for storage purposes • Dimensions (LWH) 2440x760x740mm

CLEARANCE £38.99 EX.VAT £46.79 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £65.99 INC.VAT

Clarke AIR STAPLEGUN - CSG1C

CLEARANCE £20.99 EX.VAT £25.19 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £35.98 INC.VAT

• Operating pressure 60 - 100 psi (4.1 - 6.8 Bar) • Air consumption 0.4cfm per stroke • Uses Type 71 22 gauge staple up to 16mm long • Magazine capacity up to 180 staples • Capable of 120 shots per minute • Weighs 0.85kg

Clarke 48" FARM JACK - CFJ48

• Lifting capacity 2000kg • Minimum load (for lowering) 50kg • Maximum lifting height 1090mm • Minimum height of lifting foot 152mm • Unit weight 2.7kg

CLEARANCE £32.99 EX.VAT £39.59 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £55.19 INC.VAT

Clarke SHHH AIR 30 QUIET RUN COMPRESSOR

• Ultra low noise up to 43dB. • 0.88cfm (24.9 Ltrs / min.) • 8bar (115psi) maximum working pressure • Dimensions (LWH) 220x420x390mm

CLEARANCE £49.98 EX.VAT £59.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £298.80 INC.VAT

Clarke MIG 145 NO-GAS/GAS MIG WELDER

• Power settings from 35 – 135 amps • Turbo fan cooling for greater efficiency • Uses 0.6 / 0.8mm wire • Fully variable electronic wire speed control • Thermal overload protection • Extra tough protective edging • Operates from 230V power supply.

CLEARANCE £114.99 EX.VAT £137.99 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £179.98 INC.VAT

Clarke DEVIL 6009 INDUSTRIAL ELECTRIC FAN HEATER (400V)

• Adjustable 4.5 to 9kW heat output • 9kW max. absorbed power / 400V 3phase supply • 773m³/h max. airflow rate • Encapsulated stainless steel heating element • Dimensions (DWH) 350x335x465mm / Weight 9kg

CLEARANCE £89.98 EX.VAT £107.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £167.98 INC.VAT

Clarke 12" DOVETAIL JIG

• Material width 300mm • Cuts work pieces with a thickness of 8 - 32mm • ¼" (6.35mm) cutter shank diameter • Tough steel build • Includes a ½" comb template guide and holes for bench mounting • Router not included

CLEARANCE £39.98 EX.VAT £47.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £71.98 INC.VAT

Clarke CIS100 12V CORDLESS IMPACT SCREWDRIVER

• Powerful 12V, 1.7Ah Ni-Cd battery • Max torque delivery 108Nm • Impacts per minute: 0-2900 • Speed (no load): 0-2200rpm • Supplied with carry case, Ni-Cd battery and 1 hour mains charger

CLEARANCE £24.99 EX.VAT £29.99 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £50.39 INC.VAT

Clarke JUMP START 910 RECHARGEABLE POWER SUPPLY (WITH AIR COMPRESSOR)

CLEARANCE £44.99 EX.VAT £53.99 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £71.98 INC.VAT

• 900 peak amps, 400 amps starting boost • Up to 50 hours of 12v DC supply for electrical equipment • Supplied with 230v mails charger and 12v adaptor for vehicle charging • 240psi max pressure air compressor

Clarke JUMP START 1010

• Starts petrol and diesel engines up to 3 litres • Starting boost output of 400A and Peak output of 900A • Built in work light

CLEARANCE £64.99 EX.VAT £77.99 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £101.99 INC.VAT

Clarke MILL HEAD (TO SUIT CL250M) - CL251MH

• 150W, 230v motor • Variable speed 100 - 1300rpm (no load) • Drill chuck capacity 10mm • Spindle travel 30mm, T slot 8mm

CLEARANCE £159.00 EX.VAT £190.80 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £298.50 INC.VAT

Clarke CEW1000 ELECTRIC IMPACT WRENCH

• 1000 Watt, 230V motor • Max. torque 450Nm • No load speed 2200rpm • No load impact rate 3400ipm • Drives bolts up to a max size of M12 • Bit holder size ½" square drive

CLEARANCE £39.98 EX.VAT £47.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £68.39 INC.VAT

Clarke 4 STROKE PETROL GENERATOR - G1200

• Air cooled 4 stroke petrol engine - 1100W maximum power output / 1000W continuous output • 12V battery charging facility (12V DC @ 8.3 amps) • Standard 230V (13 amp) 3 pin socket • Quiet running - 68dBA at 7m (1/4 load)

CLEARANCE £119.98 EX.VAT £143.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £191.98 INC.VAT

Clarke 4 DRAWER MOBILE CABINET - CC600P

• Four drawer cabinet for safe, secure storage of workshop equipment • Dims (LxWxH) 475x475x690mm

CLEARANCE £64.99 EX.VAT £77.99 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £143.98 INC.VAT

Clarke 720W PETROL GENERATOR - G720

• 720W maximum power output • 12V battery charging facility • Air cooled 2 stroke engine • 6.5 running hours @ 3/4 load • 230V AC (13 amp) socket • Anti-vibration rubber feet, carry handle & recoil starter • Dimensions (LWH): 380x312x362mm • Weight 17kg

CLEARANCE £62.99 EX.VAT £75.59 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £107.98 INC.VAT

Clarke CAST IRON STOVE -BARREL

CLEARANCE £154.99 EX.VAT £185.99 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £250.80 INC.VAT

• Wood and coal burning stove for efficient heating • 20,000Btu heat output • Dims (WDH) 410x410x505mm

Clarke CHAMP 110V COMPRESSOR

CLEARANCE £129.98 EX.VAT £155.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £251.98 INC.VAT

• 7.6 cfm air displacement • 2.4 litre air receiver • 2hp, 110V, 1ph motor •10 Bar (145 psi) maximum working pressure • Dimensions (LWH): 510x270x400mm

Clarke ½" SQUARE DRIVE AIR IMPACT WRENCH - CAT23C

• Max torque 230ft/lb • Operating pressure 6.2bar • Average air consumption 4cfm • Requires minimum 10mm bore air hose

CLEARANCE £18.99 EX.VAT £22.79 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £35.98 INC.VAT

Clarke" AIR ANGLE POLISHER - CAT54

• Operating pressure 6.2bar • Air consumption 5cfm • Maximum speed 2,500rpm • Pad size 7" (180mm) Ø • With side handle

CLEARANCE £39.98 EX.VAT £47.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £77.99 INC.VAT

Clarke NO-GAS / GASMIG WELDER - MIG 180

• Power settings from 40 – 160 amps. Welds mild steel 5mm thickness. • Turbo fan cooling for greater efficiency. • Uses 0.6 / 0.8mm wire • Fully variable electronic wire speed control • Operates from 230V power supply.

CLEARANCE £129.98 EX.VAT £155.98 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £215.98 INC.VAT

Clarke CHT301 19 PIECE TAP & DIE SET

• 5 Tap & Die sets from 1/4"-28 to 1/2"-20 • 1" OD split dies *Supplied with tap wrench, die handle, T-handle tap wrench & SAE screw pitch gauge. • All neatly presented in a metal storage case.

CLEARANCE £10.99 EX.VAT £13.19 INC.VAT
NORMAL PRICE* £20.39 INC.VAT

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'Ginger Warrior' Julie dies after battles with cancer and leukaemia

A POPULAR mother of four who battled breast cancer and survived only to be told she had leukaemia less than a fortnight after being given the all-clear has died.

Former bar and cafe manager Julie Devlin, of Walsall, was nicknamed the Ginger Warrior for the fight she put up against cancer and she raised more than £1,500 for the hospital where she received chemotherapy treatment.

Tributes have been paid to the 49-year-old by her sister Dawn Perks, who was found to be a perfect match for a stem cell transplant that was carried out last year but proved unsuccessful.

Ms Devlin, who lived in Friezeland Road, Reedswood, was diagnosed with breast cancer in February last year and had a mastectomy at Manor Hospital before being given the all clear the following month.

But she was readmitted to hospital a day later, on her 48th birthday, and was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia on March 26 last year.

Ms Devlin, who was born in Wednesbury and was a former Wood Green High School pupil, received chemotherapy treatment at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton and eventually went into remission.

She was given the go-ahead to have a stem cell transplant and her sister was found to be a match. The transplant went ahead last September at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham but two months ago she was told it had failed and the leukaemia was terminal.

Mrs Perks, aged 47, said: "We just hoped and prayed it would work. When it came back we were expecting them to say they would do the chemotherapy again but they said it was too aggressive.

"She was in shock when she was diagnosed with the leukaemia but she was determined again to beat it. We used to call her the Ginger Warrior because of the way she said she would fight cancer."

Ms Devlin, who ran the Charles Street cafe and The Orange Tree pub in Walsall before being diagnosed, organised a fundraiser at Bentley Moor Club for the ward where she received treatment at New Cross Hospital. The £1,520 she raised will be used to buy an ice machine and fridge to store platelets and blood.

She died on April 11 and leaves a partner, Jane Faulkner, 47, and children Hugh, 28, Dominic, 26, Joe, 23, and Siobhan, 20, and grandson Ollie, four.

Julie Devlin, who became known as the Ginger Warrior

Studio is back on the beat

A COMPANY based in West Bromwich that supports businesses in the Black Country has helped reopen a community recording studio.

Sweda has helped relaunch popular Wolverhampton recording studio, Sam Sharpe's Music Project, as Beatsabar Project, a community interest company offering youth club members, charity organisations and independent artists the opportunity to record their music.

The Sam Sharpe's Music Project was well known for its youth work in the city and for its chief engineer, the late Lester Samuels better known as 'Dread Lester', who died suddenly in 2009.

Services on offer will include audio recording, mixing and mastering, production development and arranging, mixing for television and radio, songwriting and scoring, and voice-over services.

Matt makes it past the post for £1,500

Fundraiser Matt Johnson and his son Harry

A FUNDRAISER putting himself through physical challenges in the year of his 40th birthday has passed his charity target of £1,500.

Father-of-one Matt Johnson, of Churchfield Drive, Rowley Regis, took on the Tough Guy challenge – widely seen as the toughest assault course in the world – with fellow Sandwell Council worker Tom Davies on January 26.

And now Mr Johnson has raised even more from running the London Marathon.

The 40-year-old is drumming up funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Matt's wife Karen died from the disease a month after giving birth to their only son, when she was aged 32.

He said: "I've passed my target of £1,500 and I'm now at £1,800 – I'm hoping now to break £2,000."

Mr Johnson is keeping a blog about his challenges at http://www.bigfouroh.wordpress.com/

Bee more friendly to useful insects

GARDENERS are being urged to create bee-friendly gardens to help protect bees threatened by habitat loss and climate change. Birmingham-based BBC gardening presenter Alys Fowler is calling for help for the insects as part of Friends of the Earth's Bee Cause campaign.

More than 20 UK bee species are already extinct and a quarter of those remaining are at risk, due mainly to their food and nesting sites disappearing, with 97 per cent of wildflower meadows gone in the last 60 years.

Alys Fowler said: "Gardens are becoming one of the most important refuges for Britain's wild and honey bees, providing chemical-free food, clean water and a place to nest.

"Taking steps to make your garden bee-friendly brings in other beneficial insects and wildlife too, helping your garden to find its natural balance. When the balance is right, there is no such thing as a pest problem, meaning less work for you. In return, bees will pollinate your fruits and vegetables, giving you more strawberries, apples and tomatoes to enjoy."

Making Friends

TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT TO LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND: CHAT26 TO : 80098 (T&C'S BELOW)

Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745**

JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, gardening, outings, WLTM sincere, caring male, 69-74 for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411711**

SARAH, married lady seeks discreet no strings fun with gent. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box 408291**

TINA sexy black female looking for healthy distractions with fun adult companion, interested? You won't be disappointed, give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411519**

LYNNE young looking attractive Indian female with GSOH and down to earth attitude, looking for likeminded male for date nights, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411219**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 410127**

EMMIE 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411281**

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459**

NINA, black beauty, looking for discreet adult times with man any age. **Tel: 0905 002 1957 Box 409901**

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959**

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even football! Looking for my Mr Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what do we have to loose, call me. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410765**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 408297**

CAROL slim attractive blonde, sporty, easy going, broadminded looking for likeminded male with plenty of va va voom, 35-45. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 409717**

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329**

28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639**

SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive, enjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily looking for Mr Right as Mr Wrong or even Mr Right now could be fun! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411049**

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just wants good company and a nice relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410641**

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing single female looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for fun times in or out. Age, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410565**

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tlc to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039**

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949**

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637**

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. Pls no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577**

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847**

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721**

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTM tall professional for romance dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543**

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT TO LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND: CHAT26 TO : 80098 (T&C'S BELOW)

MALE 74, fit, N/S, OHAC, seeks slim lady of similar age for days out, holidays and walks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411673**

TALL mature male, seeks younger, attractive mixed race lady for spoiling and pampering. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411505**

KEV 53, Stoke, seeking female for fun, romance, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410997**

PHIL genuine male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411461**

DEE 49, divorced, handsome, fit, slim, seeks lady, any age for lasting, meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411415**

MARK 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411335**

SLIM attractive Asian male, GSOH, seeks likeminded discreet female for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411305**

MALE 67, seeking lady 30-50 for friendship/companionship and occasional days/nights out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411293**

INTELLIGENT sincere Shropshire male, slim, young 60's, playfully assertive, seeking complimentary, responsive, feminine lady, 50-60's who enjoys music, books, the arts and countryside. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411285**

EASY going male 45, likes sports, seeks female for relationship. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411541**

5FT 6ins male, dark hair/eyes, glasses, likes meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411455**

IAN 47, 5ft 11ins, likes cinema, nights in/out, sports, socialising, GSOH seeking similar female. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411297**

ATTRACTIVE male, seeks 100% adult fun with woman, any age/looks or status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411253**

MALE WLTM pear shaped lady, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411109**

PAUL 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411099**

TRUSTWORTHY fit, active, caring, easy going male, N/S, 68, GSOH, seeks genuine lady, 59-72 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411083**

ADVENTUROUS 32yr old slim, dark haired, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

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Love keeps rolling on for diamond couple

June and Gordon Read from Pelsall, reflect on their messages of good wishes on cards for their diamond wedding anniversary

THEY met at the local rollerdrome and after more than six decades together the wheels are still firmly on their long and happy marriage.

Gordon Read, now 84, said June 'caught his eye' at the rink, in Temple Street, Wolverhampton, and she agreed to meet him the following week outside The Regal in Darlaston.

But the budding romance was almost over before it started after Gordon turned up for the date in his civvies instead of his Army uniform. "I was a bit disappointed – I liked to see a man in uniform," said June, 82. He didn't make that mistake on their next outing and a couple of years later the pair were married on March 27, 1954, at All Saints' Church, Darlaston, in front of 100 guests.

The celebration continued at the nearby Woden Works canteen where they held their reception before the happy couple set off for a week's honeymoon to London.

Gordon spent most of his working life at FH Lloyds in Wednesbury, the largest steel foundry in Europe.

The couple seen on their big day

Sandwell age UK
The new name for AGE Sandwell Concern

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- Buffet lunch and refreshments through the day are provided for those attending all day sessions.

Training takes place every other Monday commencing Monday 10th March 2014 and is based at our centre in Beeches Road, West Bromwich. Twenty places are available each week and courses include:

Emergency First Aid *Health & Safety / Risk Assessment* *Infection Control* *COSHH* *Food Hygiene* *Manual handling of people / objects* *Fire safety* *Lone working*

For further details please call the Care Training Team on 07904 371 790 or 0121 553 0710 and ask for Christine or Wendy.

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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1080517

Charities for year ahead are chosen

BROWNHILLS TG

VICE chairman Astrid van der Burgt welcomed members and the new committee which includes Maureen Jones and Norma Stamp as treasurer.

Correspondence included acceptance letters for invitations to the musical evening led by Adrian Wiggley to celebrate 85 years of the national Townswomen's Guilds.

Karen Da' Casto has a great calendar of outings arranged, visiting Bletchley Park, Severn Valley Railway and Kensington Palace.

Members voted for the charities of the Year and elected to support Kate Jergas's Free2Be which gives Hand-up help to under-privileged children living in Kenya.

The club is also supporting Sue Smith, Brownhills Beaver Leader who has been chosen to go to Japan for the World Jamboree in 2015.

Astrid made final arrangements for the popular 'Evening of Fashion' to be held on Thursday May 15 at the Memorial Hall, Brownhills at 7.30pm. All funds raised will go to the chosen charities.

A vote was taken and passed to purchase a new Golden tree to replace the the commemorating the group's Golden Anniversary which has died. David Jacques gave a talk on the refurbishment of the Sugnall Walled Garden.

At the next meeting on Monday May 12 at 7.30 pm at the Memorial HallIan Watkins will give a talk on 'Behind the Scenes at the Grand Theatre'.

Cheque is handed over to MS Centre

Christine Husbands collects the cheque from SI President Parkash

SI WOLVERHAMPTON

AT the February meeting of Wolverhampton Soroptimists President Parkash welcomed Regional President Edna Shafter Hughes who gave an interesting insight into her life, German connections and involvement in Soroptimist International.

In February, Parkash had visited the Multiple Sclerosis Centre, Newbridge to view the new extension and refurbishment of the building and learn of the new extra sessions they were hoping to be able to cater for, on demand.

In March following an enjoyable meal at the Lindens, President Parkash invited Christine Husbands of the Multiple Sclerosis Centre to receive a cheque for £1,200 to use at the centre to improve conditions and refurbishments. The money had been collected from a number of events during the year.

The club had lengthy discussions on the 'Format for the Future', in which many interesting points were raised.

Talk given on castle's history

BLACK COUNTRY

MAX Keen was the speaker at the last meeting of the Kingswinford Branch held in St Mary's Church Hall.

Max is a local primary school teacher and gives many talks in the area, including the annual Bromsgrove Festival. He spoke about 'The History of Dudley Castle, 1071-1932'.

He made a grand entrance in period costume and showed samples of chain mail, swords, protection helmets and shields and other artefacts.

He described the castle buildings for the very early days and in the 1530s the castle was only rivalled by Hampton Court. Over the years buildings were added and the grounds were scenes of spectacular events.

Max is an entertaining speaker and makes history come to life. His talk was very well received.

On May 21 Dr Chris Upton will be the speaker.

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Justine's journey to help leaving patients

BEING a matron on a brand new innovative project would be daunting for anyone. Yet this was an opportunity that Justine Irish grabbed with both hands.

Eight months after the Medically Fit for Discharge (MFFD) wards were opened at Rowley Regis and City Hospitals Justine, aged 42, remains committed to their aim of providing high quality care for people who are waiting to be transferred home with care packages or waiting for a residential home bed.

She said: "I was excited by the prospect of working with people committed to improving the quality of the patient's journey through the Trust.

"MFFD is still in its infancy and we still have much to learn from our community colleagues but we can really see a difference already.

Individualised

"Together we have identified a bespoke model where all patients have very individualised care.

"We have activities such as craft sessions, cinema room and singing evenings. It really is nice to able to invest that little bit more in our patients.

"Some have had months in hospital after feeling very unwell, so they can be quite surprised by the level of activity that we provide and with our very flexible visiting times, relatives have been able to be more involved in discharge plans."

The wards are doing so well that they were recently nominated for a Kate Granger Compassionate Care award, a career highlight for Justine.

She added: "Being shortlisted for the Kate Granger Compassionate Care award this year was a huge achievement. My teams have worked hard for that recognition."

Justine, from Oldbury, has also worked hard for her recognition.

After leaving school with few qualifications, she found a love of nursing through working in a nursing home and 16 years later has risen through the ranks to become Matron.

She said: "I left school with hardly any exams and did not think education was particularly important.

"I started working in a nursing home and to my surprise I loved it, so 16 years ago I applied for a job at Dudley Road Hospital as an auxiliary nurse.

"From that moment on I was supported to go to college two evenings a week for two years to gain the A-Levels I needed to train to be a nurse, once I completed that the trust seconded me to do my training and I have never looked back! Every qualification I now have I have gained with support from the trust, including my degree."

Sixteen years on Justine still loves her job.

She said: "What I enjoy most about my job is seeing my teams being so proud of the service we have all set up. I include nurses, doctors, therapists and discharge teams in this.

Completed

"We have all worked so hard over the last eight months and seeing how proud they all are and seeing our patients' faces when they are discharged having completed their journey in a lovely environment is what makes me happy."

Outside of work Justine spends time with husband Paul and eight-year-old daughter Amelia-May, as well as occasionally treating herself to a shopping trip to Selfridges.

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes from a wide variety of backgrounds, doing a wide variety of jobs, in one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations – Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust. It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally. Last year, the trust saw a patient on a face-to-face basis one and a half million times and provides care from 150 locations. This week we highlight: Matron for medically fit for discharge wards – JUSTINE IRISH

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Paolo getting his new shoes ready as tour visits the Civic

Puppet show is for adults only

AWARD-WINNING puppet comedy musical Avenue Q will be visiting Birmingham.

A hit on Broadway and the West End, the adult comedy will be visiting the New Alexandra Theatre from September 16 to 20.

With naughty puppets brought to life by an ensemble cast of 11 performers, Avenue Q is a Tony Award-winning musical that first opened at New York's off-Broadway Vineyard Theatre in 2003, before transferring to Broadway later that year where it won three Tonys for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book.

In 2006 it opened in the West End, where it ran for five years before touring.

More good news for Russell's fans

DUE to huge demand comedian Russell Howard has extended his sold-out arena tour into the autumn including an extra date in Birmingham.

The star of TV show Russell Howard's Good News will be returning to the LG Arena on December 21. Tickets are priced £31.50.

Comedy over the next week includes Wulfrun Hall shows for Josh Widdicombe tonight and Paul Chowdhry next Thursday. Jack Dee and the I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue radio show crew are at Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday for two performances... with the lovely Samantha?

Singing Sister Tasheka

TASHEKA Coe made it to the final 20 out of 9,000 aiming to become Andrew Lloyd Webber's next West End star in TV show Over The Rainbow.

Tasheka didn't get to walk down the Yellow Brick Road to star as Dorothy at the London Palladium but she is preparing for the lead role of Deloris Van Cartier in West Bromwich Operatic Society's production of Sister Act at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next month.

The soul stirring comedy musical about a streetwise singer finding sanctuary from a gangster with an order of nuns was a hit movie in the 1990s with Whoopi Goldberg in the lead role. It later became a popular Broadway and West End show. The WBOS production of Sister Act will be at the Grand from May 13 to 17. For tickets call 01902 429212.

Tasheka Coe is starring in West Bromwich Operatic Society's production of Sister Act

IT has been a long wait but Scottish singer-songwriter Paolo Nutini is back with an acclaimed new album and a tour including a sold out concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Friday, May 30.

The 27-year-old from Paisley, where his parents ran a fish and chip shop, made an instant impact in 2006 with his debut album These Streets, including the hits Last Request and New Shoes, and released his second, Sunny Side Up, three years later yielding the hits Pencil Full of Lead and 10/10.

Olympic

Since then not a lot of has been heard of the soulful singer, besides his singing appearance at the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games, because Paolo has been on global travels "seeking adventure".

Now he is back with his Caustic Love album, including the single Scream (Funk My Life Up), which has won rave reviews.

Pick of the gigs over the forthcoming week include the return of Neil Finn, the former frontman of New Zealand bands Crowded House and Split Enz bringing his solo show to Birmingham Symphony Hall on Monday (£35).

Three time Grammy Award winner Ben Harper brings his Weissenborn guitar to the Symphony Hall on Tuesday (£32.50). Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson previews his new solo album at the same venue on May 1 (£30/£35).

Civic gig — Paolo Nutini

Blues rocker Larry Miller is at Bilston's Robin 2 tonight (£12 or £14 on the door), and the Mount Pleasant venue then hosts rising folk/pop band The Moulettes on Wednesday, April 30 (£8 or £10 on the door) with support from Scottish folk musician Kate Young.

So good that it is going wrong

AN awful whodunnit goes badly wrong to much comic effect in highly-rated new farce The Play That Goes Wrong, which is staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, May 3.

The cosmic boogie of glam rock star Marc Bolan and his band T Rex is celebrated in new musical 20th Century Boy at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre Monday to Saturday.

The Birmingham International Dance Festival continues at Birmingham Hippodrome with the powerful Sideways Rain danced by the 14-strong Alias on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Masked theatre company Vamos bring Finding Joy to Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre tonight.

Rick's classical concept concert

A PROGRESSIVE rock landmark is revived on Tuesday when keyboard wizard Rick Wakeman celebrates the 40th anniversary of his classical-rock concept album Journey To The Centre Of The Earth, at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham.

Based on the science fiction novel by Jules Verne, the former Yes star will be teaming up with an orchestra for a new production of the show first performed at London's Royal Festival Hall in 1974. It will feature visuals by famed Yes album sleeve designer Roger Dean. Tickets cost £46.50 or £52.

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CHOICE

Tom Schilling

Generation War: Our Mothers, Our Fathers (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Usually, if you want a Saturday night fix of subtitled drama, you have to turn to BBC Four. But now BBC Two is getting in on the act as well with this new series, the first foreign language show to premiere on the channel since The Kingdom back in 2001. But it's not just the fact that the characters aren't speaking English that makes Generation War unusual – it's also exploring the Second World War from the perspectives of five German friends. It opens in Berlin, in the summer of 1941, as highly decorated officer Wilhelm prepares to be leave for the eastern front with his bookish younger brother Friedhelm. But it's their Jewish friend Viktor who appears to be facing the most uncertain future.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigellissima. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Leeds Rhinos v St Helens (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.20 Film:** Madagascar. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller.

6.40 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong hosts as contestants from the world of comedy take part in the game show. They are one-time Goodie Tim Brooke-Taylor, satirist John Bird, former sitcom actors Don Warrington, Ray Burdis and Robert Llewellyn, master of the hidden camera Dom Joly and stand-up stars Rhona Cameron and Richard Herring. Who'll be best when it comes to being worst? Richard Osman is the one with the answers.

7.50 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, hosted by Kate Garraway.

8.40 Casualty. Dixie risks her job to take a patient to see his dying mother, while a woman's unusual birthday treat to herself lands her in hospital. Jan Francis and John Bowe guest star.

9.30 The Guess List. Harry Judd, Jason Manford, Carol Vorderman, Aled Jones and Kate Humble help contestants answer all sorts of everyday questions.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Southampton v Everton at the St Mary's Stadium and Manchester United v Norwich City at Old Trafford; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Wigan Athletic v Blackpool.

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Film: Caught. (1949) **7.30** Great British Menu. (R) **8.00** Great British Menu. (R) **8.30** Great British Menu. (R) **9.00** Great British Menu. (R) **9.30** Great British Menu. (R) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **12.45** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **1.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **5.30** Mountain Gorilla. (R)

6.30 Flog It! Trade Secrets. Paul Martin and the show's experts offer more advice on making money from antiques and collectibles, with this edition focusing on rare and valuable tools.

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The third and final session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where another two second-round matches are set to take place, with one of them scheduled to conclude.

8.00 Porridge. Career criminal Fletch plans his escape while being escorted to jail by two prison warders. Pilot episode of the classic comedy, starring Ronnie Barker and Fulton Mackay. (R)

8.30 Mozart in Prague: Rolando Villazon on Don Giovanni. The tenor explores the premiere of Mozart's opera of 1787, studying the music and the social setting in which it was first performed, before authentically recreating the finale.

9.30 Generation War: Our Mothers, Our Fathers. New series. German drama following the stories of five friends as their lives take different paths during the Second World War. Volker Bruch and Tom Schilling star.

11.00 The Sarah Millican Television Programme. Sarah chats to Suzi Perry about F1 coverage, discusses Saturday night entertainment with Bruno Tonioli and talks magazine shows with Matt Baker and Alex Jones. Last in the series. (R)

11.30 Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad presents highlights of the concluding session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where another second-round match was scheduled to reach a climax.

12.20 Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25 Film:** Murder, She Wrote: South by Southwest. (1997) **11.10** Dinner Date. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **1.20** The Unforgettable Hughie Green. (R) **1.50** Tipping Point. (R) **2.50** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **3.35** A Touch of Frost. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Let Me Entertain You. New series. Michael Underwood showcases viewers' dancing, singing and lip-synching clips alongside entertaining videos from the internet and hidden-camera surprises.

6.30 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents.

7.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec present the third audition show, as the judges – Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon – hope to uncover more of the nation's talent.

8.15 Amazing Greys. Young contestants go head to head with old pros, including World Cup-winning England striker Geoff Hurst and golf ace Vivien Saunders. Paddy McGuinness and Angela Rippon host.

9.15 Law & Order: UK. When a series of shootings claims one of their own, Ronnie and Joe must solve the case before the killer reaches the next target – on a hit list that includes Henry Sharpe. (R)

10.15 The Americans. Kate relays orders for Philip to bug the Arpanet – the early version of the internet – to monitor US government communications, while Nina agrees to take the FBI's polygraph test.

11.15 ITV News; Weather.

11.30 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon invites actor Larry Lamb and former Spice Girl Emma Bunton to join Dave Berry on the panel as he noses around the homes of three mystery celebrities. (R)

12.30 Jackpot247. **3.00** Dinner Date: Australia. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 River Cottage Bites. (R) **6.15** Trans World Sport. **7.10** The Grid. **7.40** A Day at the Races. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** How I Met Your Mother. **11.25** How I Met Your Mother. **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.20** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.45** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park, Haydock Park and Ripon. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Merchant Navy officer Fiona Rush hosts the final dinner party in Belfast, hoping to impress with a nautical theme and fish dishes, before the winner is announced. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.15 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets Tamayo Hussey, who has missed Japan ever since she moved to the UK 14 years ago with her husband, quantum physics professor Nigel. The couple want to transform a 1960s forester's lodge into a unique Japanese house, complete with a tatami room – decorated in her homeland's traditional style – sliding paper walls and a bath on the roof. Keen to keep costs down, they have decided to engage only the design skills – rather than the full services – of an architect, so with no previous building experience they tackle the project alone. (R)

8.15 Film: Avatar. (2009) A paraplegic soldier uses technology that allows him to control a genetically engineered body on a mission to a dangerous jungle world. His assignment is to infiltrate an alien tribe on behalf of a corrupt mining corporation, which wants to drive them from their land. He comes to sympathise with the natives, and helps them fight back against his employers. James Cameron's sci-fi adventure, starring Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver and Stephen Lang.

11.25 Film: Showgirls. (1995) A stripper sets out to become a star in a Las Vegas show, but reckons without the dubious backstage backstabbing. Adult drama, starring Elizabeth Berkley and Kyle MacLachlan.

1.50 The Good Wife. (R) **2.35** Desperate Housewives. (R) **3.15** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.25** SuperScrimpers' Challenge. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun. (R) **11.00** Benidorm ER. (R) **12.00** Beware! Cowboy Builders Abroad. (R) **1.00 Film:** Columbo: Ashes to Ashes. (1998) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Patrick McGoohan. **2.55 Film:** Private Benjamin. (1980) Comedy, starring Goldie Hawn. **5.00 Film:** Jesse Stone: Sea Change. (2007) Thriller, starring Tom Selleck.

6.40 Longmire. Walt searches for a missing Native American boy who has been fostered by a white family.

7.30 NCIS. The team investigates the death of a marine off the coast of Tanzania – a case complicated by the discovery that he had a link to Ziva. Starring Mark Harmon and Cote de Pablo. (R)

8.15 NCIS. The agents investigate the Halloween murder of a marine with a fondness for playing practical jokes. As the evidence accumulates, they begin to suspect he was killed by the exasperated victim of one of his pranks. Drama, starring Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Cote de Pablo, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette. (R)

9.05 5 News Weekend.

9.15 Britain's Funniest Comedy Characters. Olivia Colman narrates this countdown of the nation's top 50 TV comic creations, both new and old. Those featured include neurotic hotel owner Basil Fawlty, disillusioned executive Reginald Perrin, seedy landlord Rigsby, the generation-hopping Blackadder, Ab Fab's Patsy and Eddy, David Brent from The Office, love's young dream duo Gavin & Stacey, crazy joke-shop owner Miranda, the even crazier Keith Lemon, Irish matriarch Mrs Brown and sex-mad virgin Jay from The Inbetweeners. Contributors to the show – some of whom are sure to feature on the list themselves – include Ruth Madoc (Hi-de-Hi!), Warren Mitchell (Alf Garnett), Neil Morrissey (Men Behaving Badly's Tony), Prunella Scales and Andrew Sachs (Fawlty Towers), plus Ann Widdecombe, Barry Cryer, Richard Curtis and Ronni Ancona. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.05** Classic Car Rescue. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Top Gear Vietnam Special **8.15 Film:** Toy Story 3 (2010) **9.55** Live at the Apollo **10.40** Russell Howard's Good News **11.10** Family Guy **1.00** Sweat the Small Stuff **1.30** Russell Howard's Good News **2.00** In the Flesh **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Britain's Natural World: The Unnatural History of London **8.00** Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities **9.00** Cleopatra: The Film That Changed Hollywood **11.00** The Story of Top of the Pops 1979 **12.00** Top of the Pops: 1979 **12.35** John Denver: Country Boy **1.35** Byzantium: A Tale of Three Cities **2.35** Britain's Natural World: The Unnatural History of London **3.35** Close

ITV2

11.05 Tom Daley Goes Global **12.10** Britain's Got Talent **1.30** Britain's Got More Talent **2.30** Lawson: The Hot Desk **2.45 Film:** Dungeons and Dragons (2000) **5.00 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **7.00** Totally You've Been Framed! **7.45** You've Been Framed! **8.15** Britain's Got More Talent **9.20** You've Been Framed! Family Special **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Crazy Beaches **11.15** Britain's Got Talent **12.35** Britain's Got More Talent **1.35** Fake Reaction **2.10** Dads **2.35** You've Been Framed! **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.40 Agatha Christie's Poirot **12.50** Jane Austen's Emma **3.00 Film:** The Railway Children (1970) **5.10** Foyle's War **7.10** Rosemary & Thyme **8.15** Doc Martin **9.15** Martin Clunes: Man to Manta **10.20** Cold Blood **11.55 Film:** Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) **1.50** Judge Judy **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Rajasthan Royals v Royal Challengers Bangalore and Kolkata Knight Riders v Kings XI Punjab. **8.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights **9.00 Film:** The Deer Hunter (1978) **12.45** River Monsters **1.50** Benidorm **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.00 The Big Bang Theory **1.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.00 Film:** Hop (2011) **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** Rude(ish) Tube **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00 Film:** The A-Team (2010) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory **12.25** Party House **1.30** 2 Broke Girls **2.00** The Cleveland Show **3.10** Youngers **4.00** Made in Chelsea **4.55** Ugly Betty

Film4

11.00 The Truth About Spring (1964) **1.00** Cocoon (1985) **3.20** The Longest Day (1962) **6.50** The Golden Compass (2007) **9.00** Planes, Trains and Automobiles (1987) **10.45** Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) **12.30** Confessions (2010) **2.40** A Useful Life (2010) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE

Brenda Blethyn

Vera
(ITV, 8pm)
Not only did author Ann Cleeves create the books and characters on which the acclaimed Shetland is based, she's also the brains behind DCI Vera Stanhope, who's back for a new series. DS Ashworth's daughter witnesses the murder of pensioner Margaret Kraszewski on a busy Newcastle train at the height of rush hour. As a result, he's keener than ever to help Vera apprehend the killer, and the trail leads them to the B&B Margaret shared with a woman and her teenage children. Further investigation suggests she knew her killer, and that her death was tied to secrets from her past. Brenda Blethyn, David Leon, Jon Morrison, Clare Calbraith, Sonya Cassidy, Eva Birthistle, Alistair Petrie and Paul Copley star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Perfection. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Monkey Planet. (R) **4.45** Points of View. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison are in the Yorkshire Dales, helping small magazine The Dalesman celebrating its 75th anniversary by naming the top 75 icons of the county. Their journey takes in a visit to Bolton Abbey, a meeting with the ladies of Harrogate's Cappuccino Cycling Club – who are being photographed in their undies for charity – a brass band and a coastline search for the semi-precious stone, Whitby jet. Adam Henson meets the three finalists in this year's Outstanding Farmer of the Year award and Tom Heap investigates the claim that the current crisis over abandoned horses could be partially solved by eating the animals' meat. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Gregynog Hall, near Newtown in Powys, where items include secret plans drawn up by a British PoW and an artistic tribute to race-riot victims.

9.00 The Crimson Field. Joan's spirits are lifted by the arrival of 13 soldiers who have avoided death by sticking together – but one of them holds a secret. Kitty is confronted by a figure from her past.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Sunderland v Cardiff City, Liverpool v Chelsea and Crystal Palace v Manchester City.

11.40 The White Slums: Reggie Yates' Extreme South Africa. New series. Reggie Yates travels to South Africa 20 years after the first democratic elections to explore three different communities, beginning with a squatter camp.

12.40 Weatherview. **12.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.25 Film:** Cornered. (1945) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.15** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **1.00** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **1.45** Coast. **2.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

6.00 50 Golden Years of Sport on BBC Two. Sue Barker presents a look back at the history of sport on the channel through some of its most-watched events over the past 50 years. The film examines the birth of programmes including Match of the Day, Ski Sunday and Pot Black and reflects on memorable occasions such as the 1985 world snooker championship final between Dennis Taylor and Steve Davis, and the Ashes series in 1981. Featuring contributions by Gary Lineker, Ian Botham, Tanni Grey-Thompson, Steve Cram, Alan Hansen, Clare Balding, Des Lynam, Murray Walker and Alan Davies. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Coverage of the concluding session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two second-round matches continue.

8.00 Natural World: France – The Wild Side. Paul McGann narrates a look at France's wildlife, revealing wolves, wild boar and bears living in the country's many mountains, valleys and forests. (R)

9.00 Film: The Artist. (2011) Premiere. A 1920s movie actor is smitten with a chorus girl he meets by chance, and helps arrange her big break in the film industry. Oscar-winning silent drama, starring Jean Dujardin, Berenice Bejo and John Goodman.

10.35 QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended version of the quiz, featuring Professor Brian Cox, Rhys Darby, Jason Manford and Alan Davies answering questions on the topic of justice.

11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad presents highlights of the concluding session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the second round continued with two more matches.

12.10 Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.10** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.05** Holby City. (R) **4.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Victorious. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25 Film:** Columbo: Agenda for Murder. (1990) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **1.30** The Unforgettable Noele Gordon. (R) **2.00** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.20** Let Me Entertain You. (R) **3.50 Film:** The Living Daylights. (1987) James Bond adventure, starring Timothy Dalton.

6.20 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

7.30 Off Their Rockers. Seb needs a sponge bath, Rosie loses a rather unusual pet and Tony tries to prove there really is such a thing as a free lunch.

8.00 Vera. New series. The crime drama returns with an episode based on Ann Cleeves' recently published novel Harbour Street. Vera investigates the death of a pensioner found stabbed on a train at the height of rush hour. The case has a huge impact on Joe's home life when his daughter is named as a key witness, and he struggles to maintain a professional distance. The trail leads the team to a quiet Northumberland coastal town where clues appear to lead to one particular street – but why are the residents so reluctant to talk? Starring Brenda Blethyn, with David Leon, Sonya Cassidy, Jon Morrison and Eva Birthistle.

10.00 Perspectives: Gary Kemp – Kick Out the Jams. The Spandau Ballet star, a keen art collector, explores the work of Damien Hirst, Tracey Emin and the other Young British Artists, who shook up the modern art world 25 years ago.

11.00 ITV News; Weather.

11.20 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Britt Ekland. The former Bond girl talks about her career and private life, opening up about her turbulent marriage to Peter Sellers. (R)

12.15 The Store. **2.45** Motorsport UK. **3.35** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.25** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Freesports on 4. **6.45** Freesports on 4. **7.10** British GT. **7.35** How I Met Your Mother. **8.00** How I Met Your Mother. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Secret Eaters. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** Deal or No Deal. **4.30 Film:** Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules. (2011) Premiere. Children's comedy sequel, starring Zachary Gordon.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Posh Pawn. An insight into the world of high-end pawnbroking, going behind the scenes at a Surrey-based firm dealing in luxurious and exclusive objects. In last year's one-off documentary, the asset experts at Prestige Pawnbrokers saw everything from a £25,000 designer handbag to a £1million helicopter, and in the first edition of this series, they're amazed by two diamond necklaces owned by very different clients. (R)

8.00 For the Love of Cars. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead scour the nation for a Land Rover Series I, which went into production in 1948 with a run of just 39,000. Tracking down an example that has been sitting in a barn for more than 40 years, renowned car designer Ant tries to restore the unloved vehicle to its former glory. Meanwhile, Philip meets the Landie enthusiasts who gather in woodland to thrash their cars in the most basic form of motorsport, plus men who once depended on the Series I for survival in the desert.

9.00 Fargo. Sheriff's deputy Molly begins to suspect Lester is involved in the murders, but new boss Bill points her in a different direction. Meanwhile, Malvo investigates the blackmail plot against a man known as the Supermarket King. Black comedy-drama based on the Coen brothers' critically acclaimed film, starring Martin Freeman, Billy Bob Thornton, Allison Tolman and Bob Odenkirk.

10.10 Film: The Haunting in Connecticut. (2009) Premiere. Horror, with Virginia Madsen and Kyle Gallner.

12.10 Film: Sunshine. (2007) **2.00** The Good Wife. (R) **2.45** The Hotel. (R) **3.40** SuperScrimpers' Challenge. (R) **4.40** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurai. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megaforce. (R) **11.00** Access. **11.05** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.35** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **12.35 Film:** The Land Before Time. (1988) Animated adventure, with the voice of Gabriel Damon. **2.05 Film:** Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey. (1993) Animal adventure, with the voice of Michael J Fox. **3.45 Film:** Lilo & Stitch. (2002) Disney animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Daveigh Chase. **5.30 Film:** Freaky Friday. (2003) Disney comedy remake, starring Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan.

7.10 5 News.

7.15 Film: Rush Hour 2. (2001) The two mismatched detectives travel to Hong Kong to investigate a bombing at the US embassy, and take on Triad gangsters. Action comedy sequel, with Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker. Edited for violence and language.

9.00 Film: The Other Guys. (2010) Premiere. Two desk-bound incompetent cops live in the shadow of their more daring colleagues. However, when the heroes of the station are killed in a bizarre accident, the bumbling duo get the chance to prove their worth as they stumble across a tycoon's illegal activities. Action comedy, starring Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg, Steve Coogan and Eva Mendes. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.

11.10 Film: Bad Boys. (1995) Two detectives are forced to swap identities as they hunt for a heroin consignment stolen by a drug kingpin. Michael Bay's action thriller, starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence. Edited for language.

1.20 SuperCasino. **3.05** Britain's Crime Capitals. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **8.30 Film:** WALL-E (2008) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Ja'mie: Private School Girl **12.20** The Call Centre **1.20** Can Criminals Say Sorry? **2.20** Sweat the Small Stuff **2.50** In the Flesh **3.50** Great TV Mistakes **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Don Giovanni from the Royal Opera House **10.00** Sting: When the Last Ship Sails **11.20** The Joy of Easy Listening **12.50** The Wonder of Bees with Martha Kearney **1.20** Neil Diamond: Solitary Man **2.20** Neil Diamond: Radio 2 Electric Prom **3.25** Sounds of the 70s 2 Reggae – Stir It Up **3.55** Close

ITV2
12.00 Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **2.35 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **4.30** Britain's Got Talent **5.45** Britain's Got More Talent **6.45** You've Been Framed! **7.20 Film:** Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace (1999) **10.00** Viral Tap **10.50 Film:** Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008) **1.00** Viral Tap **1.40** The Vampire Diaries **2.30** You've Been Framed! **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.25 Jane Austen's Emma **1.30** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.40** Rosemary & Thyme **4.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.55** Inspector Morse **8.00** The Zoo **9.00** Birds of a Feather **9.30** Vicious **10.00 Film:** Fierce Creatures (1997) **11.55** Cracker **1.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **2.45** Judge Judy **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Delhi Daredevils v Mumbai Indians and Sunrisers Hyderabad v Chennai Super Kings. **8.00** Storage Wars **9.00 Film:** Klitschko (2011) **11.25 Film:** Tremors (1989) **1.25** Warren United **1.55** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.35 Made in Chelsea **1.35** Revenge **2.35** Rude(ish) Tube **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** The Tomorrow People **6.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Sister Act (1992) **10.05** Rude Tube: Utter Pranks **11.05** How I Met Your Mother **12.05** Rules of Engagement **1.00** Rude Tube: Utter Pranks **2.00** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 The Brady Bunch Movie (1995) **1.00** Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging (2008) **3.00** The Spiderwick Chronicles (2008) **4.50** Chariots of Fire (1981) **7.15** Fast Girls (2012) **9.00** The Adjustment Bureau (2011) **11.05** The Informers (2008) **1.00** If (1968) **3.15** Close

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Film Choices

MONDAY
Smokin' Aces, ITV, 10.35pm
A Las Vegas showman agrees to become an FBI informant and dish the dirt on a big-time mobster. However, the gangster responds by putting a price on his head, and soon a motley crew of assassins from across the country are vying to claim the bounty – while the showman only has two agents for protection. Comedy crime drama, starring Jeremy Piven, Ben Affleck, Zach Cumer, Andy Garcia and Ray Liotta. (2007)

TUESDAY
Goodnight for Justice: Queen of Hearts, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Judge John Goodnight intercedes in a stagecoach robbery and rescues the only surviving passenger. He escorts her to safety by riverboat, gradually learning she is a con-woman who was on her way to prison. His staunch morals are tested as he is tempted to help her escape justice. Western sequel, starring Luke Perry, Katharine Isabelle and Ricky Schroder. (2013)

WEDNESDAY
A Bronx Tale, BBC1, 11.45pm
An honest, hard-working bus driver watches helplessly as his teenage son falls under the spell of a smooth-talking, sharp-suited gangster and is gradually drawn deeper into the criminal underworld. Crime drama, directed by and starring Robert De Niro. (1993)

Withnail & I, Friday, Channel 4, 12.30am

THURSDAY
Stealing Paradise, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An aeronautical engineer is outraged when a colleague steals her ideas for himself and patents them. When he is later found dead, she becomes the prime suspect in the police investigation, and must find a way to clear her name. Thriller, starring Rachael Leigh Cook. (2011)

FRIDAY
My Family's Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A man attempts suicide, leaving a cryptic note claiming he may have caused his sister's death. His wife goes back to his home town in search of answers and asks his brother for help. She does not realise her brother-in-law has a split personality, and digging up the past brings out his more dangerous aspects. Thriller, starring Nicholle Tom, Philip Riccio and Dylan Neal. (2010)

Withnail & I, Channel 4, 12.30am
Two hard-drinking unemployed actors sharing a grotty flat in late 1960s London think they can escape their miserable existence by decamping to a cottage in the Lake District. But finding no respite from their problems, the less self-destructive of the pair comes to realise he has to leave his friend behind. Cult black comedy, starring Richard E Grant and Paul McGann. (1987)

Pick of the Week

Vera tries to keep her new case on track

Ann Cleeves must be feeling pretty pleased with the way her career is going at the moment.

The 60-year-old author's novels continue to sell well and the TV series Shetland, which is based on her books about DI Jimmy Perez, has just ended an acclaimed run on BBC1.

There's hardly been time to draw breath between that and the start of Vera's fourth series.

DCI Vera Stanhope, played so convincingly by Brenda Blethyn, was also created by Cleeves, and the first three sets of cases have proved popular with ITV viewers – and with the actress who plays her.

Blethyn has a variety of acclaimed roles to her name, including an Oscar nomination for playing an overbearing mother in Little Voice, but Vera is her longest acting commitment to date.

"I'll continue to play Vera for as long as the audience wants to see her, as I absolutely love the character," says the actress. "I was first attracted to the role because the drama focuses on the crime rather than her personal life, and Vera's not your usual run-of-the-mill detective. She doesn't come with any baggage; she's not hampered by romance. If you passed her in the street you wouldn't dream she was a detective.

"The success of Vera is down to a team effort. It sounds a cliché to say it, but every single person in the cast and crew plays a vital role in the show's success. The international success of the previous three series is very gratifying and of course it's great to receive such positive feedback from fans."

In January, Cleeves' latest book featuring DCI Stanhope, Harbour Street, was published. It also forms the basis of the first case to be tackled by the character in this fourth run.

DS Ashworth's daughter witnesses the murder of pensioner Margaret Kraszewski on a busy Newcastle train at the height of rush hour.

As a result, he's keener than ever to help Vera apprehend the killer, particularly as he feels partly to blame for his daughter being on the train in the first place.

"Joe's daughter Jessie is under a lot of pressure to recall the events that took place, which is obviously very distressing for one so young, and which creates tension between Joe and Celine. Had Joe followed his wife's advice and paid for a taxi home, their daughter would have been spared the anguish."

The investigation eventually leads Vera and Joe to the B&B Margaret shared with a woman and her teenage children. Further investigation suggests she knew her killer, and that her death was tied to secrets from her past.

Once this case is wrapped up, there are three more for the duo to get their teeth into – what can we expect from those?

"Viewers will meet Marcus Summer (Kingsley Ben-Adir), our new pathologist, who is joining the team following Billy's departure," explains Blethyn. "He's a pretty smart cookie and quickly gets the measure of Vera!

"And as always we have some stunning landscapes featured across the four films."

David Leon and Brenda Blethyn star in Vera, Sunday, ITV, 8pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Britain's Most Extreme Weather
Channel 4, 8pm
It's been a mild winter, but Britain has been battered by terrible storms and gale force winds, not to mention a tidal surge. Flooding has wrecked the homes of thousands living across the country – and if extreme weather continues through the summer, we may end up with a drought. But why have we been facing such unusual conditions? In this four-part series, weatherman Alex Beresford attempts to find out. He also trawls through the archives to find out if we're now facing the worst weather our shores have ever faced – and if things are getting worse. The first programme focuses on floods, and it seems that compared to the aftermath of the Great Storm of 1703, in 2014 we've got away with things lightly.

Prey
ITV, 9pm
We have high hopes for this new, three-part thriller, which stars John Simm. In some respects it sounds a little bit like The Fugitive – Simm plays a well-liked bloke who is framed for a crime he didn't commit, escapes from the authorities and sets out to clear his name. Simm plays DC Marcus Farrow, a likeable copper with two sons who is found at the scene of a brutal crime. When all the evidence points at him being the culprit, he's arrested and charged, but makes a bid for freedom. Suddenly he's on the run on the streets he used to police, trying to evade recapture by his colleague, DS Susan Reinhardt, while also attempting to clear his name.

TUESDAY
Happy Valley
BBC1, 9pm
Writer Sally Wainwright and actress Sarah Lancashire must have formed a solid friendship after the incredibly successful Last Tango in Halifax – they've reteamed for this crime thriller, which incidentally is filmed not too far away from that romantic drama, in Calderdale, West Yorkshire. But while the backdrop of the rolling hills and sleepy villages may seem picturesque, there's enough crime going down to keep the local bobbys busy. Catherine Cawood (Lancashire) is the sergeant on duty when flustered accountant Kevin Weatherill (Steve Pemberton) stumbles into the station to report a crime – a crime that was his own doing.

WEDNESDAY
Secret Eaters
Channel 4, 8pm
Having been together for four years, Allan and Emma are in that 'comfortable' stage – so much so that they have no idea why they seem to be putting on so much weight. But the surveillance cameras reveal something we can all be guilty of – super-sized portions at meal times. Not to worry – Anna Richardson is on hand with some no-nonsense advice and a plan of action to ensure the couple change their lifestyles and begin to notice the changes by the belt notch. Meanwhile, psychologist Dr Christy Ferguson sets up an experiment in a Manchester office to see if pre-ordering your lunch means you're more likely to make healthier choices than choosing on impulse.

Prey, Monday, ITV, 9pm

Derek
Channel 4, 10pm
Brace yourselves for Kev as you've never seen him before – or at least, doing something you never expected. Since we first met him in the first series, he's been a layabout who's preferred to spend his days downing cans of lager rather than actually doing anything constructive. But Kev seems set to change his ways when he discovers there are jobs available at Broadhill – seeing as he spends most of his time hanging out at the place, he may as well get paid for it, right? But cleaning up his act won't be easy... Meanwhile, Hannah worries about Vicky's new relationship and Derek is stirred up by a new acquaintance.

THURSDAY
Posh Pawn
Channel 4, 8pm
Millions of us telly addicts love spotting a bargain without leaving the comfort of our sofas, whether it's the whimsical charm of homegrown hit Bargain Hunt, or the high-octane, trailer trash world of Stateside smash Storage Hunters. However, there's been a new edition to the genre in recent weeks thanks to Posh Pawn, the documentary series uncovering the hidden world of high-end pawnbroking. This week we meet reformed 1980s cat burglar Sid. He hopes to raise cash with assistance from his family and their jewellery. Meanwhile, Prestige Pawnbrokers boss James gets a shock while test driving a client's superbike at Brands Hatch, and new employee Kristen has to value two huge tanzanite stones.

FRIDAY
The Trip to Italy
BBC2, 10pm
Steve and Rob visit Pompeii and then have lunch at Relais Blu on the Sorrento coast, overlooking the isle of Capri. Continuing their journey by car they head to the next hotel, where Rob receives a call from his agent telling him he has got the part in the movie he auditioned for.

The Beatles: The Night That Changed America – A Grammy Salute
ITV, 10.35pm
Entertainment special commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Fab Four's ground-breaking first appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show and celebrating their legacy. Songs performed on that momentous evening in 1964, as well as Beatles hits through the years, are covered here by some of the biggest names in music, including Maroon 5, Katy Perry, Ed Sheeran, Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keys and John Legend, and Eurythmics – reuniting for one night only. Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr team up for Hey Jude and With a Little Help from My Friends.

Brain Gym

No.270

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

15	18	18	10	■	4	12	20	20	15	25	14	17
25	■	12	■	■	12	■	■	12	■	8	■	2
26	■	8	18	4	20	18	22	17	■	22	■	18
18	19	18	■	■	■	3	■	■	15	25	4	4
8	■	10	■	13	25	22	10	■	■	14	■	23
■	11	25	24	18	■	2	■	26	12	18	4	4
■	■	■	■	18	■	18	■	8	■	■	■	■
20	6	4	18	8	■	5	■	18	3	25	11	■
15 L	■	15	■	■	13	12	8	19	■	11	■	21
25 A	20	18	3	■	■	18	■	■	■	6	7	18
22	■	25	■	25	23	8	9	25	16	18	■	17
23	■	24	■	23	■	■	6	■	■	1	■	23
7	25	19	1	8	18	25	10	■	8	25	23	7

1	14
2	15 L
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25 A
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 J	2 A	3 U	4 X	5 Q	6 B	7 Z	8 S	9 P	10 C	11 T	12 H	13 R
14 O	15 E	16 M	17 K	18 L	19 Y	20 G	21 V	22 I	23 W	24 D	25 N	26 F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. It may get broken - put it down! (6)
4. Don't contract for a feast (6)
9. He should know how to get people to make outstanding contributions (4-9)
10. Contacts by telephone and makes men join the army (5,2)
11. In the advertisement anger is ventilated (5)
12 & 6 Dn. What the stage electrician provides? (5,13)
14. About to bet on a kind of race (5)
18. Ice may accompany rich food (5)
19. To inflame the feelings in what is reasonable, we hear (7)
21. The state of the team who receive no vocal encouragement? (13)
22. Give evidence that a teetotaller is attached to a different set (6)
23. Are those off this track defeated? (6)

Down

1. Don't increase the weight - cut the price (6)
2. Comrade-in-arms (2-11)
3. Competitions for those with common characteristics? (5)
5. Before the deceased archbishop (7)
6. See 12 Across
7. Being out of order, I deliberately adopt a mocking attitude (6)
8. Makes uncertain progress causing mistakes (5)
13. Funny sounding part associated with a member (7)
15. Sensitive plant raised in Jamaica carefully! (6)
16. Bad habits they won't let go (5)
17. Logically think out the cause (6)
20. Social distinction is rejected, we hear (5)

1		2		3		■	4	5		6		7
	■		■		■	8	■		■		■	
9												
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
10					■		■	11				
	■		■	■	■		■		■		■	
■	12			13		■	14					■
15	■		■		■	16	■	■	■		■	17
18					■	19		20				
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
21												
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
22						■	23					

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Retiring (6)
4. Firm (6)
9. Mixed (13)
10. Loiters (7)
11. Anaesthetic (5)
12. Cleave (5)
14. Employers (5)
18. Denude (5)
19. Dispossess (7)
21. Amusement (13)
22. Abandon (6)
23. Pure (6)

Down

1. Mutter (6)
2. Crumbles (13)
3. Riddle (5)
5. Offers (7)
6. Comradeship (13)
7. Make certain (6)
8. Near (5)
13. Sovereign (7)
15. Climb (6)
16. Perfect (5)
17. Pay bill (6)
20. Nip (5)

Sudoku

					2	1		7
	2		4	7				
9					5		4	3
6			1			8		
		9			6	7		
		5		8	3			6
1	3		9					8
		8		2	1		6	
5		4	8					2

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	7	1	2	4	8	3	6	5
8	2	5	7	6	3	1	4	9
4	6	3	5	1	9	8	7	2
6	9	4	3	2	7	5	1	8
7	3	2	8	5	1	6	9	4
1	5	8	4	9	6	7	2	3
5	4	6	1	8	2	9	3	7
3	8	9	6	7	4	2	5	1
2	1	7	9	3	5	4	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Stout-hearted; 7 Groom; 8 Credo; 9 Oar; 10 Fishpaste; 11 Radish; 12 Ceding; 15 President; 17 Amp; 18 Extra; 19 Issue; 21 Green fingers. Down: 1 Stenographer; 2 Too; 3 Enmesh; 4 Recipient; 5 Evens; 6 Foreign parts; 7 Gored; 10 Fascinate; 13 Image; 14 Relief; 16 Enter; 20 Sun. QUICK - Across: 1 Pettifoggery; 7 Greet; 8 Tramp; 9 Ere; 10 Protector; 11 Unsure; 12 Finish; 15 Suffering; 17 Ban; 18 Twine; 19 Curve; 21 Unseasonable. Down: 1 Prerequisite; 2 Ire; 3 Option; 4 Gathering; 5 React; 6 Apprehensive; 7 Guess; 10 Persevere; 13 Imbue; 14 Discus; 16 Feign; 20 Run.

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HARBORNE

The Close

An opportunity to acquire a deceptively spacious, well presented, 3 bedroomed semi detached property, occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position within this popular neighbourhood, truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious through lounge/dining area, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, pleasant rear garden and GARAGE at the rear. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £219,950

SMETHWICK

Hugh Road

A deceptive, well proportioned 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated within this popular neighbourhood, requiring some modernisation but offering potential, having part double glazing, radiator heating and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, separate w.c. and good sized rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating . BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £119,950

SMETHWICK

Mansion Crescent

A deceptively spacious, well proportioned 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property, conveniently situated and requiring internal inspection, having double glazing, gas radiator heating and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance vestibule, attractive lounge, breakfast kitchen, rear vestibule area (with downstairs w.c off), 3 bedrooms, bathroom, and pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £108,995

BEARWOOD AREA

Rathbone Road

A rare opportunity to acquire AN EXTREMELY SPACIOUS, considerably improved and well presented end position FAMILY HOME with many CHARACTER FEATURES, convenient for Bearwood town centre, the property truly requires an internal inspection to be fully appreciated, having gas radiator heating and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful spacious lounge, dining/ sitting room, inner hall, super re-fitted breakfast kitchen (with integral oven/hob), 3 GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS, study, attractive bathroom and pleasant rear garden. OFFERS AROUND £220,000 (FOR HOUSE) OR £235,000 (TO INCLUDE GARAGE AT THE REAR.) NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £220,000

OLDBURY

Landswood Road

A deceptively spacious, well presented, 3 bedroomed traditional style semi detached property conveniently situated within this established neighbourhood, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing, and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, delightful lounge, separate sitting room, breakfast area leading to kitchen, 2 double bedrooms (both with fitted wardrobes), bed 3/box room, shower room, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating F. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

OFFERS AROUND £163,950

BEARWOOD AREA

Katherine Road

An opportunity to acquire a deceptively spacious, delightfully presented and considerably improved 2 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated for local shopping facilities and amenities, truly requiring an internal inspection to be fully appreciated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, attractive dining room, delightful lounge, re-fitted kitchen (with oven/hob), downstairs shower room, 2 good sized double bedrooms (master having fine range of fitted wardrobes), super fearture house bathroom and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £145,000

OLDBURY

Cemetery Road

An improved and well presented 3 bedroomed end terraced property having gas radiator heating and double glazing, requiring internal inspection and comprising :- Porch, welcoming hall, delightful lounge with feature fireplace, re-fitted breakfast kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking and rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £122,950

OLDBURY

Causeway Green Road

A well proportioned 3 Bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated within this established neighbourhood, requiring internal inspection, having majority double glazing, gas radiator heating and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, attractive lounge, dining/ sitting room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, and good sized rear garden, VIEWING ESSENTIAL. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £109,950

OLDBURY

Broadway Court, Pottery Road

An opportunity to acquire a spacious, modern, delightfully presented double bedroomed ground floor apartment conveniently situated for local amenities and facilities, having double glazing, approached via a communal entrance and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful spacious open plan lounge and kitchen area (with integral oven/hob, fridge/freezer and integrated washer/dryer), good sized double bedroom (having built in wardrobes), attractive bathroom, communal garden and allocated/ visitor parking (set behind communal electric gates), VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £94,500

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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK
NEW

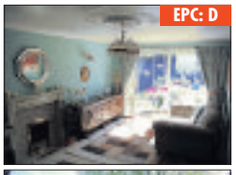
EPC: D

WEDNESBURY
LIME ROAD

- SEMI DETACHED IN POPULAR LOCATION
- THREE GOOD BEDROOMS
- NEW CONDENSING CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- THROUGH LOUNGE
- KITCHEN WITH INTEGRATED APPLIANCES
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS £124,950

FEATURED PROPERTY
NEW



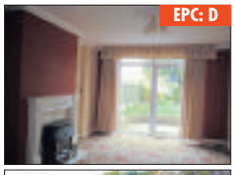
EPC: D

WEDNESBURY
VICARAGE ROAD

- SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW
- TWO BEDROOMS
- REPLACEMENT DOUBLE GLAZING
- CONDENSING CENTRAL HEATING
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- QUITE LOCATION, NOT OVERLOOKED
- HANDY FOR AMENITIES & TRANSPORT LINKS

OFFERS £149,950

MANAGERS CHOICE
NEW



EPC: D

WEDNESBURY
WODEN ROAD SOUTH

- SPLENDIDLY LOCATED THREE BED SEMI
- KITCHEN WITH APPLIANCES
- CONDENSING CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- VACANT POSSESSION
- IDEAL FOR SCHOOLS & TRANSPORT NETWORK
- GATED OFF ROAD PARKING

OFFERS £157,950

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AUCTION

EPC: E

WEDNESBURY
CRANKHALL LANE

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- EXTENDED KITCHEN
- CENTRAL HEATING AND MAJORITY DOUBLE GLAZING
- NO UPWARD CHAIN!

FOR SALE BY AUCTION. STARTING BID £69,950

EPC: B

KING STREET
WEDNESBURY

- TWO BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
- EN SUITE TO MASTER AND FITTED WARDROBES
- FITTED KITCHEN WITH APPLIANCES
- ALLOCATED PARKING
- D/G & ELECTRIC HEATING
- FORMER SHOW HOME ●NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS £91,950

REDUCED

EPC: E

WEDNESBURY
HYDES ROAD

- TRADITIONAL THREE BED SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE AND DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN AND UTILITY
- CENTRAL HEATING AND DOUBLE GLAZING
- ADVERSE MINING REPORT

OFFERS £107,500

EXTENDED

EPC: D

WEDNESBURY
CHARLOTTE ROAD

- EXTENDED THREE DOUBLE BEDROOM TOWN HOUSE
- OPEN PLAN LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- EXTENDED KITCHEN WITH FITTED APPLIANCES
- PRIVATE LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN
- VIEWING ESSENTIAL
- VACANT POSSESSION

OFFERS £119,950

NEW

EPC: D

WEDNESBURY
CROSS STREET

- SEMI DETACHED WITH POTENTIAL TO EXTEND
- THREE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- RE-FITTED SHOWER ROOM
- OUTBUILDING OFFERING POTENTIAL FOR ENLARGEMENT
- DRIVEWAY & GARAGE
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS £124,950

EPC: C

DARLASTON
VICTORY AVENUE

- THREE BED SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN, UTILITY & CLOAKS
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- VEHICULAR ACCESS TO REAR & GARAGE
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS £127,995

EPC: C

WEDNESBURY
PARK STREET

- EXTENDED FOUR BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- EXTENDED KITCHEN AND DOWNSTAIRS WC
- BATHROOM AND SHOWER ROOM UPSTAIRS
- MAJORITY DOUBLE GLAZING AND GAS CENTRAL HEATING

OFFERS £139,950

NEW

EPC: C

WEDNESBURY
OLD COLLEGE DRIVE

- FOUR BED THREE STOREY TOWN HOUSE
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- LOVELY MASTER WITH EN SUITE
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- WELL PROPORTIONED ACCOMMODATION
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

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31 Barr Street, Langley
3 Bed End Terraced
Guide: £68,000- £73,000

27 Rutland Road, Bearwood
2 Bed Mid Terraced
Guide: £72,000 - £76,000

170 Bromford Lane, West Bromwich
Residential Investment
Guide: £144,000- £148,000

38 Bredon Road, Oldbury
Residential Investment
Guide: £75,000 - £80,000

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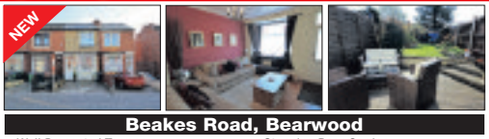


NEW

Beakes Road, Bearwood
- Well Presented Terrace
- Stunning Rear Garden
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Through Lounge
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £120,000

NOW AVAILABLE

Glyn Farm Road, Quinton
- Well Maintained Semi Detached
- Double Garage
- Three Bedrooms
- Superb Rear Garden
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £154,950

NEW

Westmead Drive, Oldbury
- Well Presented Semi-Detached
- Superb Dining Kitchen
- Desirable Cul-de-sac Location
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EP Rating TBC

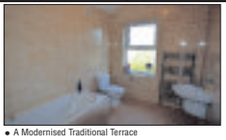
Offers in the region of £144,950

NEW

Merrivale Road, Bearwood
- Tastefully Presented Terrace
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Ideal Home For First Time Buyers
- Attractive Modern Kitchen
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £128,000

Pargeter Road, Bearwood



- A Modernised Traditional Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £129,950

Cygnet Court, Smethwick

- Beautifully Presented FF Apartment
- One Double Bedroom
- Secure Off Road Parking
- EP Rating B

Offers in the region of £69,950

NEW

Edenhall Road, Quinton
- Most Attractive Semi
- Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £239,950

NEW

Pargeter Road, Bearwood
- A Much Improved Terrace
- Stylish Family Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Modern Kitchen
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £119,950

NEW PRICE

Clarendon Road, Smethwick
- A Traditional Mid Terrace
- Modern Ground Floor Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £89,950

NEW

Lodge Road, Smethwick
- Delightful Semi Detached
- Abundance Of Period Features
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £182,500

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NEW

OLDBURY

WATERSIDE COURT, TITFORD ROAD

Spacious apartment built only 9 years ago to a high specification. Ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity. Communal entrance, entrance hall, store cupboard, lounge/dining area, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. Allocated parking and communal gardens. EPC Rating C

Price: £89,950

OLDBURY

HARBORNE ROAD

A detached dormer bungalow situated in one of the area's premier locations closed to Warley Woods. Side entrance to large reception hall, lounge, study/bedroom 4, breakfast area, kitchen, utility, two bedrooms and bathroom to ground floor. Additional bedroom and bathroom to first floor. Two garages to either side (one single, one double garage) potting shed, central heating, double glazing, two driveways. EPC Rating E

Offers in the region of £350,000

TIVIDALE

WAKEMAN DRIVE

Deceptively spacious detached house, in need of general decoration throughout. Porch, reception hall, cloakroom, sitting room, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility area, three double bedrooms, ensuite shower room and family bathroom. Off road parking, garage and rear garden. EPC Rating D

Price: £169,950

OLDBURY

MEHDI ROAD

Modern end three storey town house. Entrance hall, cloakroom, store cupboard, kitchen, lounge/dining room, conservatory, two bedrooms, bathroom, master bedroom, dressing area, ensuite shower room. Double Glazing, Central Heating,Rear garden, two allocated parking spaces. EPC Rating C

Offers in the region of £157,750

TIVIDALE

PACKWOOD ROAD

A well presented semi-detached house ideal for first time purchase. Entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, understairs store cupboard, three bedrooms, Bathroom. Gas central heating and double glazing toGarage and off road parking. Established gardens. EPC Rating C

Offers in the region of £129,500

REDUCED

SMETHWICK

ETHEL STREET

Mid terraced house situated in a popular residential location. Porch, front sitting room, lobby, cloakroom, rear sitting room, dining kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. Established landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating TBA

Offers in the region of £124,950

OLDBURY

SWAN CRESCENT

Traditional semi-detached house. Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, lobby, utility/ downstairs toilet, three bedrooms, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, off road parking. Established gardens. EPC Rating D

Offers in the region of £119,950

TIVIDALE

ASQUITH DRIVE

Modern semi-detached house offering an ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity. Entrance hall, kitchen, cloakroom, lounge, two bedrooms, bathroom. Two parking spaces and rear garden. EPC Rating C

Offers in the region of £99,950

OLDBURY

QUEENSRIDGE COURT, QUEENSWAY

A 75% share of a purpose built third floor flat in an exclusive over 55's development, comprising, entrance hall, lounge/kitchen, two bedrooms, wet shower room, under floor heating and double glazing. On site parking EPC Rating B

Offers in the region of £94,950

REDUCED

OLDBURY

PERRY COURT

First floor flat. Communal entrance hall with entry phone system to first floor landing entrance door to reception hall, stores and loft access off, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, shower room, communal parking, gardens. EPC Rating D

Offers in the region of £89,950

REDUCED

SMETHWICK

SILVERTON ROAD

End terraced house in need of general updating situated in a popular residential location. Offering an ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity. Front sitting room, lobby, rear sitting room, kitchen, lobby, bathroom, two bedrooms. Rear garden. EPC Rating E

Price: £89,950

OLDBURY

KELLNER GARDENS

First floor flat built approximately 8 years ago by Taylor Wimpey. Communal entrance, vestibule, entrance hall, airing cupboard, bathroom, two bedrooms, lounge, kitchen. Communal gardens and allocated parking EPC Rating C

Offers in the region of £89,950

TIVIDALE

ASHTREE ROAD

Spacious first floor flat offering ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity. Vestibule, first floor landing, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. Allocated parking and communal gardens. EPC Rating D

Offers in the region of £74,950

OLDBURY

LANGLEY GARDENS

Situated within the exclusive Langley Hall Gardens, a ground floor flat.. Communal entrance, lounge, inner hallway, kitchen, bathroom, double bedroom. Garage and communal gardens. Replacement double glazing and gas central heating. EPC Rating C

Offers in the region of £60,000

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34 Dudley Road East, TIVIDALE
Mid Terraced, 2 Bedrooms, 2 Reception rooms, central heating, double glazing
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19 Ashwood Close, OLDBURY
2nd Floor Flat, 2 Bedrooms, 1 Reception Room, allocated parking
..... **Rent: £550 pcm - Deposit £720 - EPC Rating C**

3 Albion Street, OLDBURY
Ground Floor Flat, 1 Bedroom, 1 Reception Room, allocated parking
..... **Rent £420 pcm - Deposit £600 - EPC Rating C**

89 Dingle Street, OLDBURY
Semi-detached, 2 Bedrooms, 1 Reception Room
..... **Rent £525 pcm - Deposit £750 - EPC Rating D**

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EPC: C

Tipton
Kirkham Way

- Three bed detached
- DG and GCH
- Fitted kitchen with oven & hob
- Downstairs WC
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Tipton office

£625pcm

EPC: B

Tipton
Potters Brook

- First floor purpose built apartment
- Two bedrooms
- DG and GCH
- Allocated parking
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255
- Available immediately

£450pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Middle Meadow

- Two bed apartment
- Fitted kitchen incl oven and hob
- GCH & DG
- Allocated parking
- Tipton office
- Available immediately
- 0121 520 2255

£450pcm

REDUCED

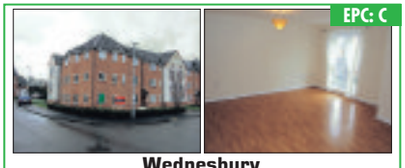
EPC: C

Wednesbury
Crankhall Lane

- Three bed semi
- GCH and DG
- Breakfast kitchen
- Cloakroom with WC
- Veranda/sun room
- Available immediately
- Tipton office
- 0121 520 2255

£525pcm

EPC: C



Wednesbury
Old College Drive

- Two bed first floor apartment
- Lounge with doors onto Juliet balcony
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with bath & shower

£525pcm

EPC: D

Wednesbury
Blenheim Drive

- Two bed first floor apartment
- Part furnished
- Double glazed
- Fully fitted open plan kitchen
- Communal gardens
- Tipton office

£475pcm

EPC: B

Wednesbury
Goldby Drive

- Two bed first floor apartment
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Parking
- Tipton office

£475pcm

EPC: B

Coseley
Yew Tree Lane

- Two bed apartment
- Kitchen with gas hob
- GCH and DG
- Bathroom with bath and shower

£425pcm

EPC: D

Coseley
Castle Street

- Two bed first floor flat
- Electric heated
- DG
- Communal garden
- Unfurnished
- Tipton office

£350pcm

TENANTS!

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£150 Plus VAT

FOR UP TO THREE APPLICANTS
*£50.00 PER ADDITIONAL APPLICANT

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- Credit Checks -
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wednesfield@skitts.net 01902 732324
wednesbury@skitts.net 0121 505 1818
willenhall@skitts.net 01902 631151
bilston@skitts.net 01902 353578
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sedgley@skitts.net 01902 686868
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HOLLYHEDGE ROAD, B71 3AA

- A Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking, Freehold
- EPC RATING E

£274,950

PENNYHILL LANE, B71 3RW

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£184,950

CHARLEMONT AVENUE, B71 3BY

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Freehold
- EPC RATING D

£189,950

HAYWOODS FARM, B71 3QT

- A Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING D

£149,950

ORCHARD ROAD, WS5 4HY

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING D

£144,950

HOBART ROAD, DY4 9LQ

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Freehold
- EPC RATING C

£117,500

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING E

£99,950

CARISBROOKE ROAD, WS10 0JB

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold, Rear Garden
- EPC RATING D

£99,950

MONKGATE DRIVE, B71 1NL

- A First Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Leasehold
- EPC RATING C

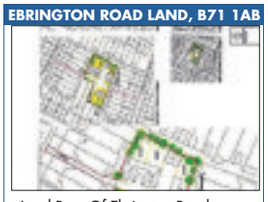
£84,500

PENNYHILL LANE, B71 3RW

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING E

£169,950

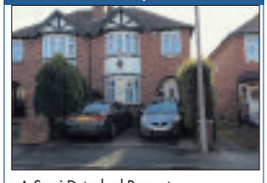
EBRINGTON ROAD LAND, B71 1AB



- Land Rear Of Ebrington Road
- Land For Sale
- Outline Consent For Four Bungalows
- Sought After Location
- Plans Available On Request

£180,000

EBRINGTON ROAD, B71 1AB



- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£149,950

SHELDON ROAD, B71 3DD

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D

£129,950

CASTLE STREET, DY4 8BF

- One Bedroom
- Apartment
- Credit Checks Required
- £495 Deposit
- Available To View Now

£495 PCM £495 DEPOSIT

BEACONVIEW ROAD, B71 3PG

- An 18th Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Six Months Tenancy Agreement
- Credit/Reference Checks Required
- Available Now

£375 PCM £375 DEPOSIT

PRINCES GATE, B70 6HU

- Second Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- £395 Deposit Required
- No Pets
- Communal Car Parking

£395 PCM £395 DEPOSIT

SHERIDAN STREET, B71 4EF

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two/Three Bedroomed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room
- EPC RATING F, Freehold

£99,950

YORK CRESCENT, B70 0JT

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms One With En-Suite
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Single Garage, Freehold
- EPC RATING B

£164,950

ANDREW ROAD, B71 3QP

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Open Plan Lounge
- EPC RATING D

£129,950

Bartrams Sales and Lettings Limited
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Connells

Bearwood 122 Poplar Rd Bearwood B66 4AP

Louis Court, South Road Smethwick £79,950

Adeceptively spacious first floor maisonette withdouble glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. Outside: communal grounds and parking. EPC: F

Worcester Road Oldbury £118,500

Mid terraced three bedroom property, briefly comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, utility, first floor bathroom, separate WC, central heating, double glazing (where specified), off road parking, no upward chain. EPC: D

City Road Edgbaston £199,950

A very well presented semi detached property, having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, cloakroom four bedrooms, bathroom, garage, parking, garden. EPC:C

Crown Street Smethwick £169,950

A modern townhouse with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms with master en-suite, bathroom, garage, parking and garden. NO CHAIN. EPC: B

Cheshire Road Smethwick £120,000

A well maintained mid terraced Victorian property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, through lounge, kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms, shower room, gardens to front and rear. EPC: D

Coplow Street Ladywood £99,950

A traditional Victorian terraced property situated in a popular residential location, with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms, courtyard garden to front. EPC: D

Kenilworth Road Oldbury £165,000

A bay fronted semi detached property with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance porch, entrance hall, through lounge, kitchen, lean to, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, parking, rear garden. EPC: D

Patman Gdns, Gillott Road Edgbaston £79,500

A one bedroom ground floor apartment with double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, communal grounds and residents parking. EPC: E

Crocketts Lane Smethwick £89,950

A three storey mid townhouse with gas central heating and double glazing where specified, and comprising: kitchen, cloakroom, inner hallway, lounge and master bedroom, two bedrooms, bathroom and gardens. EPC: D

Hall Road Smethwick £127,500

This three bedroom semi detached property has a through lounge dining room, three bedrooms, in need of some updating, but offers a good sized family accommodation. EPC: E

REDUCED PROPERTIES

Beakes Road, Bearwood £142,950

Poplar Avenue, Edgbaston £185,000

Icknield Port Road , Birmingham £119,950

67 Pargeter Road, Bearwood £129,950

Merrivale Road., Smethwick £119,950

Oldbury 70/76 Birmingham Street Birmingham B69 4EB

Moat Road Oldbury £259,000

EPC RATING F - ●●NO UPWARD CHAIN●● An extensive semi detached family home RECENTLY RENOVATED to a very high specification and is beautifully presented throughout. The property comprises of entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, extensive dining / kitchen with BREAKFAST ISLAND and integrated appliances, ground floor

Kingsway Oldbury £169,950

EPC RATING C - An extensive CORNER PLOT semi detached family home in need of some modernisation and comprising of entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, three first floor bedrooms, family bathroom with separate w.c, driveway, garage and rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Tower Road Tividale £165,000

EPC RATING D - ●● NO UPWARD CHAIN●● An extremely spacious and well presented character semi detached family home with extensive living accommodation comprising of entrance porch, hallway with guest w.c, lounge, inner room, conservatory, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, four first floor bedrooms, family bathroom, block

Castle Road West Oldbury £154,950

EPC RATING E - An impressive three bedroom semi detached family home in a SOUGHT AFTER location and comprises of entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three first floor bedrooms, family bathroom, block paved front driveway for two cars, rear garden and side garage. Double glazing and central

Goldencrest Drive Oldbury £139,950

EPC RATING C - A very well presented DETACHED family home having a desirable cul-de-sac location and comprises of entrance hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three first floor bedrooms, bathroom, front driveway, front and rear gardens. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●●NO UP-

Highbury Avenue Rowley Regis £130,000

EPC RATING D - A well presented and spacious semi detached family home comprising of entrance porch, entrance hall, open plan lounge / dining room, fitted kitchen, three first floor bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway for several vehicles, rear garden with garage. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●●NO UPWARD

All Angels Walk Oldbury £99,500

EPC RATING D - A very well presented three bedroom mid terraced family home located in a SECLUDED CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION and comprises of entrance hall, guest cloakroom, lounge / dining room, kitchen with integrated appliances, three first floor bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and parking to front. Double glazing

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Vicarage Road Oldbury £97,500

EPC RATING D - A three bedroomed end town house comprising of entrance hall, ground floor cloakroom, lounge, sitting room, fitted kitchen, dining area / sun room, family bathroom, driveway to front, rear garden, garage to rear and NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Brandhall Court Wolverhampton £89,950

EPC RATING E - A beautifully presented and IMPROVED two bedroom GROUND FLOOR flat having a security gated main entrance to the development, communal parking area and garden areas surrounding building. The property comprises of entrance hall, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, two very well presented bedrooms, modern

Karma Court Pound Close, £84,950

EPC RATING C - A very well presented COACH HOUSE APARTMENT consisting of entrance hall, open plan lounge and kitchen with integrated appliances, mater bedroom with built in wardrobe, bathroom and GARAGE. Situated in a cul-de-sac location and comes with NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Connells

Are you thinking of moving?

this could be a sign of what's to come

Wednesbury 22 Springhead Wednesbury WS10 9AD

Hodgkiss Close Wednesbury £225,000

A modern style four bedroom detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, separate dining room, fitted breakfast kitchen, utility, master bedroom with en-suite, enclosed rear garden, block paved driveway. No upward chain. EPC Rating C

Squires Walk Wednesbury £275,000

A delightful four bedroom detached period style family residence in a sought after location offering substantial living accommodation and extensive gardens to front and rear. The property features two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, garage and off road parking. Early inspection is highly recommended. EPC Rating TBA.

Churchfields Road Wednesbury £130,000

VIEWING IS A MUST on this well maintained three bedroom semi-detached property benefiting from no upward chain briefly comprising of entrance hall, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, separate WC, enclosed rear garden, off road parking. EPC Rating TBA

Stanley Road Wednesbury £115,000

A well maintained semi-detached property benefiting from no upward chain in a cul-de-sac location briefly comprising of,, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) entrance hall, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, two double bedrooms, first floor bathroom, front and rear gardens. EPC Rating TBA

Princess Way Wednesbury £99,000

Benefiting from no upward chain. A modern style two bedroom end terrace property briefly comprising of, gas central heating, lounge, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, allocated parking. EPC Rating E.

Lowe Avenue Wednesbury £80,000

A three bedroom semi-detached briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, kitchen, ground floor bathroom, first floor WC, enclosed rear garden, off road parking. EPC Rating D.

Bush Street Wednesbury £208,000

A unique opportunity to purchase a detached converted former dairy offering a wealth of character briefly comprising of entrance hall, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, enclosed garden, two garages with adjoining office and driveway. EPC Rating F.

Ron Davis Close Smethwick £85,000

A modern 2 bedroom end terrace property in a cul de sac location, comprising of lounge,kitchen,conservatory, bathroom, off road parking,double glazing and central heating (where specified) and NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING TBC

Corporation Street Wednesbury £129,950

An extended four bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) through lounge, breakfast kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, drive-way providing off road parking and garage. Energy Rating D.

Manifold Way OIEO Wednesbury £69,950

Benefiting from no upward chain a modern style two bedroom ground floor apartment briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, fitted bathroom, allocated parking space. Energy Rating C.

Manifold Way Wednesbury £49,950

BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN A modern style one bedroom ground floor apartment briefly comprising of, secure intercom entry system, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) entrance hall, open plan lounge with fitted kitchen area, fitted bathroom, allocated parking space. EPC Rating B.

Mark Road Wednesbury £90,000

A three bedroom mid-terraced property benefiting from no upward chain and briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing (as specified) lounge, ground floor bathroom, re-fitted kitchen, en-suite to master bedroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking.EPC Rating E.

Oak Close Tipton £61,950

A well presented 1 bedroom first floor apartment located within a popular area of Tipton having good links to public transport,comprising of lounge area,kitchen area,bathroom with separate WC,double glazing,electric heating, well maintained communal gardens and communal parking EPC RATING E

West Bromwich 3 Astle Park West Bromwich B70 8NS

Hanbury Road West Bromwich £47,500

A 2 bedroom ground floor maisonette,having lounge,kitchen,double glazing, NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING D

Poultney Street West Bromwich £70,000

A 2 bedroom mid-terraced property having Double glazing and central heating where specified, open plan lounge/kitchen, first floor bathroom, rear garden and ●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● EPC RATING D

Marsh Lane West Bromwich £75,000

A 3 bedroom mid terrace property, offering 2 reception rooms,breakfast room,store room,family bathroom,kitchen, part double glazing,garage NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING G

Drake Street West Bromwich £119,950

A 3 bedroom semi detached property located within close proximity to West Bromwich town centre,having 2 reception rooms,fitted kitchen,family bathroom with seperate WC,part double glazing, central heating (where specified), off road parking EPC RATING E

Walsall Road West Bromwich £149,950

A 3 bedroom end terrace property located close to transport links and local amenities,having 2 reception rooms,2 bathrooms,part double glazing,central heating (where specified),off road parking and garage EPC RATING D

Dagger Lane West Bromwich £250,000

An immaculate 4 bedroom semi detached property located in a sought after area of West Bromwich and close to Sandwell Valley,having 2 reception rooms, spacious kitchen/diner,guest cloakroom,ensuite to master bedroom,-family bathroom,garage,double glazing-,central heating (where specified) and off road parking EPC RATING D

Bagnall Street West Bromwich £82,500

A well presented 2 bedroom end terrace property with good transport links, offering 2 reception rooms,modern kitchen, downstairs bathroom,double glazing and central heating (where specified) EPC RATING F

Bustleholme Lane West Bromwich £255,000

A beautiful and well presented 4 bedroom semi detached property located in a sought after area of West Bromwich, offering good transport links and is within walking distance of local amenities. Having 3 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, double glazing and central heating (where specified),garage and NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING D

Heath Lane West Bromwich £299,950

Impressive 6 bedroom semi detached property located close to Sandwell Hospital offering good transport links to the town centre and boasting of many of its original features, 3 bathrooms,conservatory,central heating and double glazing (where specified) EPC RATING F

Last chance to buy!

Only two plots remaining at Satchwell Grange, Wednesbury

Local housebuilder, Bloor Homes Midlands, is celebrating success at its *Satchwell Grange* development in Wednesbury with only two properties remaining.

The popular development has seen a surge of home buyers snapping up the stunning three and five bedroom family properties, leaving just two homes remaining; the Bampton, and Radley house types.

The stunning five bedroom Radley design, available at **£325,000**, is a fantastic family property which is why it is currently *Satchwell Grange's* home of the week. This incredible home, which sits across three floors, comprises a spacious lounge with French doors leading to the garden, separate dining room, kitchen, breakfast area, utility and washroom on the ground floor. Head up to the first floor and you'll find an impressive master bedroom with en suite, a further double bedroom, a study/bedroom and a modern family bathroom. Finally, on the second floor are two further bedrooms and a separate shower room. This property, which also features a detached double garage, comes complete with carpets, curtains, light fittings, and turf and fencing in the garden.

Anne Cadman, Sales Director at Bloor Homes Midlands, comments: *"At Bloor Homes we pride ourselves on offering high-quality homes which meet the needs of today's modern homebuyer and we are delighted that so many purchasers in Wednesbury have already found their dream home at Satchwell Grange.*

"With the surge of enquires we've already seen for these properties, we don't expect them to be around for very long so we urge homebuyers to enquire sooner rather than later to avoid missing out on their dream home."

Satchwell Grange is a superb development of two, three, four and five bedroom homes located in the market town of Wednesbury. From the famous Museum and Art Gallery to the Country Park, Leather Museum and Black Country Waterways, Wednesbury certainly has plenty to see and do, and with excellent schools and colleges, an abundance of transport methods and motorway links, it is an ideal place to live for both families and commuters alike.

Remaining 3 bedroom semi-detached 'Bampton' available at **£149,950** or **£119,960** with Help to Buy*.

For more information on the homes available at *Satchwell Grange*, please contact **0121 505 1812** or **satchwell.grange@bloorhomes.com**

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- Help to Buy* or
- £3,000 Legal/ Stamp Duty paid*

Plot 118 The Radley – Including light fittings, carpets, turf & fence with:

- Spacious lounge
- Separate dining room
- Kitchen/breakfast area
- Utility area
- Impressive master bedroom with en-suite and fitted wardrobes
- 3 bedrooms on first floor
- 2 further bedrooms on second floor

Available at **£325,000*** or £260,000* with Help to Buy*

Also available at Satchwell Grange:
3 bedroom semi-detached with garage available at £149,950* or £119,960* with Help to Buy*

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Property

Spacious dormer bungalow

A SUBSTANTIAL detached dormer bungalow in Lodge Road, Walsall has versatile accommodation, being in one of the town's most sought after areas.

Deceptively spacious, it is for sale through Edwards Moore – offers over £350,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has a porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, large utility with a shower room off, a full width conservatory, sitting room/bedroom, four first floor bedrooms (master with study and en-suite shower room), a refitted shower room, refitted bathroom, garage, private rear garden and a large frontageg.

The breakfast kitchen includes a gas hob with a five ring burning gas hob and extractor.Call Edwards Moore on 01922 621411or visit the website at www.edwardsmoore.co.uk

Semi ideal for a family

A WELL-presented and extended semi-detached traditional family home in Broadway, Walsall is for sale through Dixons Estate Agents at £240,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has an entrance hallway, a through lounge with a leaded bay window, a sitting room with patio doors to the breakfast kitchen, this in turn having patio doors to the garden, a gas hob and extractor, double oven and a microwave, a breakfast bar and tiled flooring a utility room, four double bedrooms, a single bedroom (four of the bedrooms having fitted wardrobes) and a bathroom. For details contact 01922 432011 or visit the website www.dixonsestateagents.co.uk

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338 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Prominent corner position
- Delightful gardens to front and rear
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled family bathroom
- Downstairs shower/wet room
- Two reception rooms
- Conservatory
- Off-street parking for two cars
- An ideal family home
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST

OFFERS BASED ON 157,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

148 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Well presented end terraced property
- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Two double bedrooms
- Lounge and dining room
- Neatly presented garden
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £112,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

PUBLIC AUCTION

THIMBLEMILL RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY 2014

AT 6.30PM

33 APOLLO ROAD, OLDBURY B68 9RT Freehold 3 bedroomed mid terraced in need of refurbishment	£	60 -	65,000
43 CHESHIRE ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 6DN Freehold terraced centrally heated 2 bedroomed villa, needing improvement	£	circa	75,000
5 LEE GARDENS, SMETHWICK B67 7HP Freehold double glazed and centrally heated 3 bedroomed semi-detached	£	87,500 -	90.000
13 MILTON ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 7HT Freehold centrally heated town house with 2 bedrooms	£	80 –	85,000
40 ASHWOOD CLOSE, OLDBURY B69 4SD Modern 1 bedroomed double glazed second floor flat	£	50 -	55,000
76 BIRMINGHAM ROAD, DUDLEY DY1 4RF Freehold 3 bedroomed end terraced with garage space	£	70 -	80,000
21 GARRATT CLOSE, OLDBURY B68 9NU Modern ground floor double glazed 1 bedroomed maisonette	£	60 -	70,000
31 EDWARD ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 6EP Freehold 2 bedroomed end terraced, centrally heated and double glazed but needing general further upgrading	£	80 -	85,000
26 BROADMEDE HOUSE, SMETHWICK B67 6LB 2 bedroomed centrally heated and double glazed self-contained flat	£	circa	65,000
"STRATTON HOUSE", HIGH STREET, SMETHWICK B66 3PD Impressive freehold double fronted detached gentleman's Residence with 7 bedrooms	£	240 -	250,000
27 HIGHFIELD ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 6AP Freehold 3 bedroomed terraced in need of complete modernisation	£	55 -	60,000
1 STATION AVENUE, EDGBASTON B16 9SZ Freehold 2 bedroomed double glazed and centrally heated double fronted end terraced	£	140 -	150,000
23 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, OLDBURY B68 0NH Traditional 3 bedroomed centrally heated semi-detached needing modernisation	£	75 -	85,000

NEW

14 GILES ROAD, OLDBURY

- Corner semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Spacious lounge
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Gardens to front and rear
- Off-street parking for two/three cars
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

199 BEARWOOD ROAD, SMETHWICK

- End terraced property
- PVC double glazed
- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Superb through lounge/dining room
- Split level refitted kitchen/breakfast room
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £139,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

18 POPLAR ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Deceptively spacious accommodation
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £149,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

1 DAMIAN CLOSE, SMETHWICK

- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Semi-detached bungalow
- Centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Refitted kitchen & bathroom
- Two double bedrooms
- Refurbished with inspection to be appreciated
- Separate garage in block
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

77 RATHBONE ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, through lounge/dining room and kitchen
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £135,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

NEW

2 MICHAEL ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, two reception rooms and kitchen
- Garden to the rear
- Off-street parking
- An ideal family home
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £149,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

148 HALES LANE, SMETHWICK

- Gas central heating and PVC double glazing
- Three bedrooms and bathroom
- Hall, spacious lounge & kitchen/ breakfast room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out gardens to front and rear
- Ideal family home

OFFERS BASED ON £134,950

Viewing Berawood Office

70 CHESTNUT ROAD, OLDBURY

- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom with Mira shower & Separate W.C.
- Through lounge/dining room
- Refitted kitchen
- Nicely presented garden to the rear
- Off-street parking for three/four cars
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £169,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

108 WILLOW AVENUE, EDGBASTON

- Most carefully maintained spacious family accommodation
- Four bedrooms and bathroom to first floor
- Through hall, dining room, attractive lounge, fitted kitchen, cloakroom/WC & laundry/utility room
- Established good size garden with separate garage
- Gas centrally heated and double glazed
- Easy reach Birmingham city centre
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £195,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

43 OAK ROAD, OLDBURY

- Extended link detached
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Superbly presented bathroom with Jacuzzi bath
- Impressive hallway
- Through lounge/dining room
- Additional sitting room & conservatory
- Side garage/store & off-street parking
- Neatly laid out rear garden
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £199,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

19 PERRY COURT, OLDBURY

- First floor flat off main Hagley Road West
- Electric storage heating and double glazed
- Two bedrooms
- Spacious lounge
- Allocated parking and communal gardens
- Designated for over 60s (55+ with a disability)
- Warden controlled accommodation
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £58,000 ALL

Viewing Bearwood Office

15 PERRY COURT, OLDBURY

- Ground floor warden controlled flat
- Electric storage heating
- Double glazing
- Spacious lounge and kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Allocated parking and communal gardens
- Designated for over 60s (55+ with a disability)
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £64,950

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74 LIGHTWOODS ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Recently refurbished mid-terraced
- Close to Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods
- PVC double glazed and gas centrally heated
- Two double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Refitted kitchen
- Refitted bathroom
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
- ENERGY RATING : G

OFFERS BASED ON £128,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

237 PARK ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom with individual shower compartment
- Two reception rooms & kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Garden to the rear
- Easy access Birmingham city centre
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £149,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

3 REAR OF 31 EVA ROAD, WINSON

- Pedestrian walkway off Eva Road
- Easy access Birmingham city centre
- Centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two bedrooms & fully tiled bathroom
- Lounge and kitchen/ breakfast room
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £74,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

10 DALE STREET, BEARWOOD

- Freehold mid-terraced property
- Midway between Bearwood & Smethwick town centres
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Vestibule, hallway and cellar
- Two reception rooms
- Requiring cosmetic improvement
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON 94995

Viewing Bearwood Office

310 GILLOTT ROAD, EDGBASTON

- Substantial semi-detached residence
- Centrally heated and double glazed
- Ideal investment opportunity
- FIVE self-contained flats
- Easy access Birmingham city centre
- EPC Rating D/E
- INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

OFFERS BASED ON £249,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

10 WELLESLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

- Traditional freehold terraced villa
- Centrally heated and double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Two living rooms
- Kitchen, bathroom and gardens
- Investment property but vacant possession possible late 2014
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £92,500

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ST CHRISTOPHER DRIVE

- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

£575 pcm

Wednesbury
GOLDBY DRIVE

- Three Bedrooms
- Guest W/C
- Master with En-Suite
- Garage
- SORRY NO DHSS

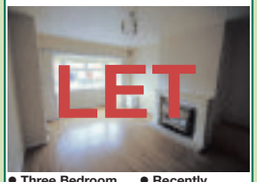
£550 pcm

Great Barr
CURBAR ROAD

- Three Bedrooms
- Semi-Detached
- Excellent Condition
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£530 pcm

Wednesbury
JOHNSON CLOSE



- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Large Garden
- Down Stairs Bathroom
- Recently Decorated
- SORRY NO DHSS

£495 pcm

Tipton
ANDREW ROAD

- Three Bedroom House
- End Of Terrace
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

£495 pcm

Wednesbury
WEDGBURY CLOSE

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Allocated Parking
- Secured Entrance
- First Floor
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury
THE AVENUE

- Second Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury
THE AVENUE

- Two Bedrooms
- 2nd Floor Apartment
- Lounge with Juliet Balcony
- Entrance Hallway
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury
MYVOD ROAD

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Fitted KItchen
- Electric Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 PCM

Tipton
THUNDERBOLT WAY

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- Electric Heating
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

West Bromwhich
CARDEN CLSOE

- Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Large Rear Garden
- Front And Rear Access
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

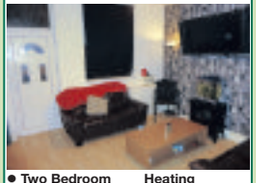
£475 pcm

Wednesbury
BEECH ROAD

- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Cul De Sac Location
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Darlaston
CASTLE STREET



- Two Bedroom End Terrace
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Utility Room
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£450 pcm

Tipton
MIDDLE MEADOW

- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- NEW CARPETS
- FITTED THROUGH OUT
- Gas central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

£450 pcm

Darlastone
PEEL CLOSE

- Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Private Garden
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

£450

Wednesbury
ADDISON TERRACE

- Ground Floor Apartment
- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- SORRY NO DHSS

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- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

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New dealership opens

Commercial feature

Hyundai Motor UK has further strengthened its dealer network with the addition of a new outlet in the West Midlands.

Hyundai Birmingham West will serve customers in the Birmingham, Halesowen, Quinton, Harborne and Smethwick area of the city from its site on Hagley Road West.

The new dealership is the latest to be added to the portfolio of Worcester Car Sales Limited, a family-run business which has been established in the area for over 60 years.

Three generations of the Grieveson family have led the success of the group, and the grandson of founder Derrick Grieveson will continue this legacy by heading up the totally refurbished outlet.

General manager of Hyundai Birmingham West, Oliver Grieveson, said: "We share a passion for quality with Hyundai, so the opening of our new site is the ideal way to celebrate 60 years of service to the West Midlands community.

Future

"Both companies are looking firmly to the future, providing customers with excellent cars and the highest standards of service for many years to come."

Tony Whitehorn, president and CEO, Hyundai Motor UK, said: "I'm delighted we are expanding our network in the West Midlands with Hyundai Birmingham West. Our focus on quality and building strong relationships with customers is clearly shared by a company which continues to prosper six decades after it was founded."

'Dealership's refurbished customer facilities also include a new service, MoT, parts and accessories department'

Visitors to the new Hagley Road West showroom will be able to experience the full range of award-winning Hyundai vehicles, such as the New ix35 and new generation i10. .

Hyundai Birmingham West is offering customers a range of special opening offers, while every new Hyundai passenger car sold comes with Hyundai's industry-leading five-year unlimited mileage warranty, which includes five years of roadside assistance and five years of annual vehicle health checks.

The dealership's refurbished customer facilities also include a new service, MoT, parts and accessories department to enhance customer service.

Motability customers at Hyundai Birmingham West can enjoy worry-free motoring. Those eligible for the scheme can lease a new Hyundai.

Tel: 0121 434 6400, visit the dealership on Hagley Road West, or log on to the website at www.hyundaibirmingham.co.uk

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Models shown: i20 Classic 1.2 5dr at £10,695 OTR in Coral White solid paint at no extra cost, i20 Classic 1.2 3 door available at £10,095* OTR. i30 Active 1.4 at £16,010 OTR in Creamy White solid paint at no extra cost, i30 Classic 1.4 3 door available at *£14,305 OTR. On the road (OTR) prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable, VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. All offers and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 1st April and 30th June 2014, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask your local Dealer. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 5dr: Urban 46.3 (6.1), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 57.6 (4.9), CO_2 Emissions 114 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i30 Active 1.4: Urban 35.8 (7.9), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 47.1 (6.0), CO_2 Emissions 139 g/km.

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Official Fuel Consumption in MPG (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the **208** range are: Urban 32.8 – 78.5 (8.6 – 3.6), Extra Urban 54.3 – 88.3 (5.2 – 3.2), Combined 44.1 – 83.1 (6.4 – 3.4) and CO_2 149 – 87 (g/km).
MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. Terms and conditions apply, participating dealers only or visit www.peugeot.co.uk. To finance your (lease/purchase) we may introduce you to a limited number of lenders. **#Passport Personal Lease:** A guarantee may be required. Over 18's only. Written quotations available on request from Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill RH1 1QA. 208 Access 1.0VTi 68 including metallic paint, customer initial payment £149, optional final payment £4,381. 46 monthly payments payable. If you choose to pay the optional final payment, you can pay an annual payment equivalent to one of your monthly payments but will not own the car. Excess mileage charges may apply. Ownership is possible with Passport - ask us for details. Offer available on cars ordered by 30th June 2014. Calls may be recorded for training purposes. Information correct at time of going to press.

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New model Gran Turismo from BMW is a change of direction

By David Banner

It did everything that was asked of it, and more, but the biggest problem lies in the minds of potential buyers.

Having a good idea is only half the battle – possibly even less than half. The difficult bit tends to be convincing others that you're not completely cracked.

And so it was with the 3GT. Because BMW has for many decades now fashioned its position as a creator of fabulous saloons, estates and coupes, but there appears to be something of a mental block for anything that doesn't fit into that template.

I must admit that, before it arrived, I wasn't sure whether I would gel with the Gran Turismo's looks. But in the flesh, and with the Sport pack including 19in wheels, it looked the business – to these eyes at least. Particularly because the 3 Series saloon is pretty much everywhere and a little individuality goes a long way.

Better still, the differing look is for a purpose, namely the extra space on the inside. It's significantly longer than the saloon and Touring and has more length in the wheelbase – although to look at, you wouldn't think it was significantly bigger.

The pay-off is in the back seats though, which offer limo-like space.

True, it wasn't often than anyone taller than the kids travelled in the back, but as any parent knows, the more space, the better.

Handy

The same goes for the boot too. There's more space than the 3 Series Touring with seats up or down.

Over the six months the 3's boot swallowed everything from a jet washer to a rabbit hutch and never batted an eyelid.

The standard electric hatch and rear-mounted release for the rear seats came in exceptionally handy too.

My '3 had the most humble of the diesel offerings, with a modest 143bhp but a very healthy 235lb/ft of torque. As diesels do, it loosened up as the miles rolled by and the performance was always more than enough.

It was thrifty with it too, although the biggest hurdle with achieving good fuel economy was the driver. Over the six months it averaged 48mpg, and that was with me generally not behaving myself.

Fun

On the rare occasions I gave it the full eco approach, it would hit 70 or even 80 miles per gallon on a long run.

The other simple thing is the 3 GT was great fun to drive. It steered and handled with the kind of precision you don't expect from a family car, and that just made it all the harder to behave myself.

In truth, it spent plenty of time trudging up and down motorways, and the comfortable seats and good driving position made short work of that too.

So, basically, the biggest problem with the 3 GT is people think they need a Touring or a saloon instead.

By all means go right ahead, but given the GT beats both for space, offers a better ride and is subtly different from all the other 3 Series out there, it's worth seriously considering this instead.

This car summed up in a single word: Versatile.

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ADAM a new take on sector

Commercial feature

The ADAM is Vauxhall's refreshingly different take on the small-car sector.

It doesn't replace the brand's conventional citycar and supermini offerings but it does offer a more stylish option for buyers bored by the sight of BMW's reinvented MINI on every drive and unmoved by Fiat's funky 500. Here's a fashionable alternative with an encyclopaedic list of options.

The ADAM is available in three trim levels – Jam, Glam and Slam. Here, we focus on the ADAM Jam, which offers a fresh and bold modern look. It comes in two-tone design style both inside and out, and an expressive palette of colours are available which will grab and keep people's attention.

No fewer than 12 body colours means you can create a cool two-tone look with three optional roof packs.

Inside, you also have a choice of colour schemes and both are eyecatching. Vauxhall has thought of everything as far as style goes as even your ADAM's key matches your exterior choice.

The ADAM Jam Extreme takes you to the next level. Here you're provided with a coloured roof, front logo bar and stunning 17in Hurricane alloy wheels.

There's a vast amount of choice with ADAM Jam trim with prices starting from £11,805.

There's a lot of promise about the Vauxhall Mokka too. It looks good, it's well equipped and it offers buyers a number of well-thought-out options. The design is handsome, and it looks to be one of those car shapes which will age very well while more radical competitors date rapidly.

Top-of-the-range Exclusiv trim level brings even more colour, style and luxury to the Mokka, which has clearly been designed for the urban environment, but that's not to say the ability to be driven off-road has been totally neglected. To this end, Vauxhall wisely offers both front and four-wheel drive chassis options, with the all-wheel drive mechanicals being fully adaptive.

'The design is handsome, and it looks to be one of those car shapes which will age very well while more radical competitors date rapidly.'

Exclusiv specification includes a multitude of standard features. Air conditioning and dual-zone climate control, DMB digital radio with CD/MP3 with aux-in socket and USB connection and iPod control along with Bluetooth functionality are all included within the Exclusiv package.

In addition to all this, you'll find the Mokka Exclusiv with steering wheel-mounted audio controls, cruise control, silver-effect roof rails, rain-sensitive windscreen wipers, electrically-adjustable heated door mirrors, front and rear electric windows, front fog lights, front and rear parking sensors, a leather covered steering wheel, stainless steel exhaust tailpipe and highly attractive sterling silver-effect 18in alloy wheels.

That's a pretty comprehensive tally and the list of standard safety features is just as generous with traction control, decent control system, switchable electronic stability programme, hill start assist, anti-lock braking system and a full complement of airbags to protect all the Mokka's occupantsy.

Prices for the Mokka Exclusiv start at £18,064.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO_2 emissions: 373 - 88g/km.#

Personal contract hire offer on Mokka Exclusiv 1.6 in Orange Rock and Adam JAM 1.2i 16v VVT in brilliant white on orders received between 2 April and 1 July 2014, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures for Mokka based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £3,383, then 35 monthly rentals of £199. Excess annual miles over 10,000 charged at 11.08ppm. Figures for Adam based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £1,980, then 23 monthly rentals of £99. Excess annual miles over 8,000 charged at 7.14ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. For full specification and T&Cs contact your local Retailer. ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

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pets corner

PAPILLION MALE for rehome, 6 months old, vaccinated, micro-chipped, also male puppy for sale. £350 each. 07974 839603.

PEDIGREE CHIHUAHUA Puppies, boys, 2 all white, 1 grey. 07952 926466.

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

£5 OFF GROOMING when booking in with our trainee groomer. Dirty Dogs Dog Wash 01384 262071.

WOOF N CUT DOG GROOMING Friendly service where your dogs will be treated professionally 07460065217 1 / 0121 5320180

PET GROOMING service. All animals welcome, great rates, quality service ,10% off in April. Rich 01902 686061/07445 434053.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties: 0121 520 5318.

business directory

commercial premises

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6 Property

properties wanted

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24 HOUR FREEPHONE:
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accommodation wanted

WANTED IMMEDIATELY 2-3 bed property for Family. Wolverhampton and surrounding area. 07502 180149 / 07895 021939.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

HOUSES TO LET in Beechdale, Walsall and Brownhills. DG. CH. Front/back garden. 07473 169281.

MODERN 1 BED House, Tipton, DG/CH, enclosed garden / large secure parking. 07885 409223.

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houses for sale

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3 (large) bed semi. 2 reception. No upward chain. Close to schools.
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7 Jobs

building & construction

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motor trade

EXPERIENCED TYRE FITTER - full time. Salary negotiable. Good references. Tipton area. For details call 0121 557 4019 9am - 5pm. CV to addisontyrecentre.co.uk

HGV FITTER/ IMPROVER Volvo experience preferred. Class 2 licence preferred. Wages negotiable depending on experience. Call 0121 3595958 or email lisa.doorly@centraltipper.co.uk

part time - general

CARTER CARE require Mobile Care Staff for mornings, evenings and weekends in Smethwick, Oldbury and Cradley Heath - please ring 0121 544 7600. Bloxwich and Willenhall please ring 01902 724123. Excellent training given, paid holidays available straight away and staff paid weekly.

NEED AN EXTRA INCOME? £200-£2,000 pm - 0121 314 9652. www.bericher.info

9 Local Information

cars over £1500

BMW SPORTS
Blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, alarm, metallic paint, central locking, cruise control, pas, alloys, stereo, CD, spots, leather interior.
£2,500 ono.
0121 5302223.

JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0D ESTATE
2005, 88,500 miles on replacement engine, titanium grey, SE model, full electric pack, leather interior.
£2,300 ono.
07976 451573.

MAZDA 6 TS2
37k miles, BD05 WPW. Tax May 31, 12 months MoT. 1 non smoking owner. Bose sound including sub bass, electric s/r/windows, CD, ps, cc, tc, cl, alarm.
£3,250.
07836 371043.

MERCEDES C220CDI Coupe, 54 reg, fsh, tax July, MoT September, 92,000 miles, £4,250 ono. Telephone 07920 156165.

RANGE ROVER VOGUE
54 plate. Blue metallic. Full sand leather interior. 109,701 miles. Full 12 months MoT.Good condition. No expense spared.
£9,000.
No offers. 01543 672473.

SMART PASSION CITY CAR 2003, 68K, tax and MoT, SH, excellent condition, economical. £1,725. 07531 757210.

VW GOLF, Dec 2002, 1 lady owner, 9 months MoT, tax, genuine 49,000 miles only, excellent condition, very reliable, £2,495. 07774 024434.

LOOK

RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC
2001, 54,000 miles, metallic silver, 1.6 16 valve, 6 disk CD changer, electric windows, new rear disks.
£1,795.

FORD FIESTA 1.2 HATCHBACK
1997, red, 92,000 miles, 8 months MoT, tax June, electric front windows, CD/radio, sun roof.
£650.
Telephone 07595 771007.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

AUDI A4
2000, 1.8, all electric, very clean inside and out, high mileage but benefits from 10 years Audi service record, full MoT, 6 months tax, needs seeing.
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CITROEN XSARA Picasso, LX HDi, 2.0 diesel, 72k miles, FSH, red, MoT'd until Oct 31, 2014, tax April 30, 2014, £1,250. 01543 505790.

DAEWOO MATIZ 1 litre, 04 reg, full MoT, low miles, PAS, E/W, S/H, drives superb, £695. Phone 07855 721501.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2 3Dr, 51 Reg., metallic blue, 58,000 miles, with service history, MoT, excellent condition, only £795. 07804 544017.

FORD FOCUS ESTATE 1.8 LX, V reg, met blue, 85K miles, tax, MoT, excellent condition, £995ono. 07702 172843.

HONDA ACCORD Zetec S 1.8, 90k miles, 5 months tax/MoT, petrol, recent service, reliable, £750. 01543 672257. 07840 977299.

KIA CARENS LE
54 plate, duel fuel, MoT September, 80,665 miles, CD/R, E/W, C/L, A/C, I/M. Good condition.
£1,250 ono. 01785 716315 or 07854 682696.

PEUGEOT 206, 2003, 63,350 miles, green, MoT March 2015, tax August 2014, good condition, used daily, £1,100 ono. 07900 911853.

VAUXHALL CORSA Active, 1.0, silver, 03, full MoT, 6 months Tax. Alloys, new tyres, ideal first car. £1,000 ono. 0121 556 0406.

classic cars

MORRIS MINOR, 1968, 23,000 miles, brown, MoT, tax exempt, good runner, £1,800 ono. 01543 876795.

commercial vehicles

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1700 DCTi, 05 Van, white, excellent condition, 12 months MoT, £1,395. 07867 685569.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Fern Avenue, Tipton)
(Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell, in order to facilitate a sewer connection by Union Contractors Midlands Ltd, in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding in Fern Avenue, Tipton.
2. The alternative route for vehicles will be via Laburnum Road, Ivy Road, Laurel Road and vice-versa.
3. The Order will take effect on 6th May 2014, and it is expected that the work will take until 7th May 2014, to complete. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the work should be directed to Martin Ware of Union Contractors Midland Ltd who can be contacted on 0121 705 8955 and those relating to the effect of the Order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Highway Services on 0845 359 7518.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Westbourne Road, West Bromwich)
(Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell, in order to facilitate the repair to a damaged sewer pipe by Amey (working on behalf of Severn Trent Water), in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding in Westbourne Road, West Bromwich from its junction with Margaret Street to its junction with Caroline Street.
2. The alternative route for vehicles will be via Margaret Street, Bromford Lane, Caroline Street and vice-versa.
3. The Order will take effect on 7th May 2014, and it is expected that the work will be completed on that same day. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the work should be directed to Russ Titley of Severn Trent Water who can be contacted on 07825 938041 and those relating to the effect of the Order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Highway Services on 0845 359 7518.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Beauty Bank, Cradley Heath)
(Temporary Road Closure) Order 2014

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Borough Council of Sandwell, in order to facilitate resurfacing works on Halesowen Road in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, has made an Order, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding in Beauty Bank, Cradley Heath from its junction with Halesowen Road to the boundary of numbers 47a and 48 Beauty Bank.
2. There will be no diversion route signed however access to frontages will be via Beauty Bank.
3. The Order will take effect on 6th May 2014, and it is expected that the work will take until 9th May 2014, to complete. The Order may continue in force for a period not exceeding 18 months, or until the works in connection with the Order have been completed, whichever is the sooner.
4. Any queries about the work should be directed to Stephen Jones of Fitzgerald Contractors Ltd who can be contacted on 0121 326 0402 and those relating to the effect of the Order on traffic using the highway should be directed to Highway Services on 0845 359 7518.

Dated this 24th day of April 2014

N SHARMA, Director of Legal and Governance Services
Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, West Midlands

BERNARD COLIN PEAKE
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 28 Farhill Close West Bromwich B71 3HA, also owned property at 1 Penybryn Terrace Blaenau Ffestiniog Gwynedd LL41 3LJ, who died on 22/02/2012, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 14/07/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
MORGAN COLE LLP
Bradley Court Park Place
Cardiff CF10 3DR
T407622

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(A)
THE M5 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 1, SANDWELL) (SLIP ROAD)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport has made an Order on the M5 Motorway in the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell, to allow sign repairs and routine maintenance work to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip road leading to the northbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 1.

Work will be carried out over one night between Friday 2nd May 2014 and Saturday 10th May 2014 between 18:00 hours and 06:00 hours. The Order will come into force on Friday 25 April 2014.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer will be exempt from the closure. A diversion route via M6 Junction 7 will be well signed.

For further information, please contact Letty Askew on 0121 687 4137.

Paul Siddall, a Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/14/56959	Tarsem Singh Sandhu Tokyo Fabric Int. Ltd	Land Adjacent 8 Addison Street Wednesbury	Erection of 10 dwellings.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR NICK BUBALO, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

10 Personals

personal

CALL SEXY LOCAL WOMEN for no fees adult fun. Contact 0700 802 3093 for details.

XTASIA SWINGERS CLUB West Bromwich. www.xtasia.co.uk for full information. 07850 236053.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

sports clubs

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LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

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Marie Hogg on 01902 713146

or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

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For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

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Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

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This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.*

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)

For a theatre brochure call the Promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

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The small village of Giverny was home and inspiration for over 40 years to Claude Monet, perhaps the most famous of the French Impressionists.

Whilst there, maybe visit one of the many galleries, studios or shops or take a walk to the pretty little church of Giverny, built mostly in the 15th and 16th centuries. Its the church that Monet attended and where he and his family are buried.

Monet's house itself has been restored to its original beauty with an attractive pink façade and now contains reproductions of his work. In the gardens, which have been re-planted to his design, there is his studio and lily pond, the subject of many of his paintings.

A transfer into Paris for a full day at leisure or the chance to join an optional excursion to Fontainebleau and Barbizon are also part of the itinerary.

Other optional excursions offered include an evening in the fascinating artist's quarter of Montmartre, and a Latin Quarter with evening river cruise on the Seine giving a full commentary on all the major sights.

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Monarchs ride away with share of spoils

Cycle Speedway

WEDNESFIELD cycle speedway team claimed a draw at home against Birmingham as the meeting went down to a final heat decider at Ashmore Park.

Birmingham travelled the short distance to the Aces on the back of two wins in the league. The Monarchs had just one change to the side that won against Coventry as Ewan Hancox came in for Bob Prince.

Wednesfield had the tough spearhead of Ex-Monarch Paul Heard as well as Ben Mould and Chris Jewkes.

Heat one saw Birmingham take a 6-4 advantage with Mark Winwood taking the win but it was short lived as the Aces claimed a 7-3 with Johnson and Heard getting the better of Carl Winwood and Scott Millward. Heat three saw Chris Jewkes get his marching orders for moving at the tapes as Birmingham made a 7-2 in the restart with Andy James rolling back the years with a win with Chris Timms behind.

Heat four saw Welsh International Mark Winwood get his second win of the afternoon as he looked sharp on the track beating fellow Welsh rider Ben Mould with Hodgkinson beating Alex Aris to make the scores 22-17. Heat five was awarded as Phil Hemming took a tumble on the fourth bend though the Monarchs could of felt James should of got second as he tangled with the former Sandwell rider as he had nowhere to go.

Heats six to eight saw shared heats as Millward, Mould and Heard all won. Heat nine before the interval saw a tussle on the fourth bend between Aris and Hodgkinson with the Monarch rider going down. The referee called a halt and excluded the Smethwick-based racer for the cause of the stoppage. The rerun saw Aris and Jewkes make it a 7-2 to put the half time scores Birmingham 45 Wednesfield 42.

Heat ten saw Andy James claim his second win. Heat sixteen saw Millward excluded and though Mark Winwood made it a hat-trick the Aces filled in the places behind to get a point advantage to make it 76-80. Heat seventeen saw share of the points which then made sure Birmingham would not lose the meeting. Heat eighteen saw the Monarchs take points back to Perry Barr.

Jonas: It's a crucial time for the Albion

DEFENDER Jonas Olsson has warned Albion another slow start could cost them victory in Saturday's potential pivotal clash with West Ham.

The Baggies kick-off a four-game finale that will decide their Premier League fate when they host the Hammers at The Hawthorns at the weekend.

And Olsson has told Pepe Mel's side that a 90-minute performance is needed after they effectively threw away Monday's game at Manchester City by conceding twice in the first 10 minutes.

"We approached it as a tough task but we went in with the belief of getting something out of it and if we had performed like we are capable of doing over 90 minutes we would have had a chance," said Olsson.

"But unfortunately we only put that performance down over 75 minutes and that's not enough, especially not at the Etihad.

"We felt we put down a good performance apart from the first 10 or 15 minutes. But that has been the pattern for the last five or six weeks.

"We need to put down performances from the first minute to the last minute and we will be alright. "

Last minute goal sees the points shared out

Tividale 1 Walsall Wood 1

Football

TIVIDALE put Wood under instant pressure and should have been ahead after just three minutes, late replacement Keiron Miller threading a ball into the right of the box to put Leigh Downing in on goal but a poor first touch rolled the ball to keeper Raajan Gill.

Wood's first meaningful attack came on nine minutes, Lewis Taylor Boyce racing clear wide right, playing a neat 1-2 with Joey Butlin, his cross cut out by keeper Charles Price.

Dale's move broke down and the ball was played up to Butlin wide right, he made space for a right wing cross, Harry Harris getting in a header that Price saved comfortably.

From a right wing corner on 14 minutes the Wood defence lived dangerously, three shots were blocked by defenders and then Gill dived bravely at the feet of Miller.

With 16 minutes gone Taylor Boyce got clear again wide right, his low cross flashing cross the face of the six-yard box and eluding everyone.

Two minutes later a ball over the top almost put Miller clear, Lee Stretton managing to touch the ball back to Gill who just managed to kick the ball away from Miller.

After 23 minutes Taylor Boyce again made space wide right before playing the ball inside to Harris on the right edge of the box who hit a rising drive that was tipped away by Price. Butlin was first to the loose ball but was denied by a superb tackle from Luke Paskin, loud penalty appeals ignored. Butlin charged down an attempted clearance by Paskin on 37 minutes and fed Taylor Boyce on the edge of the box, his first time effort was blocked, the ball fell to Craig Hancox to hit a first time low drive inches wide.

A minute later the Champions went ahead, a right wing corner was punched away by Gill but was delivered back into the danger zone, skipper Mark Smith climbing highest to loop a header into the left hand corner.

On 65 minutes Andre Gonzales won the ball near the left hand corner and played the ball back to Harris, he cut inside and his low drive was saved at full stretch by Price.

With the Champions looking to have held out another ball was hit out wide to the left, this time it was collected at pace by Andre Gonzales who cut inside and his low drive beat the right hand of the diving Price and justice was done.

Youngsters get chance to tackle skills of rugby

Some of the youngsters who were involved in the Easter training sessions at Wednesbury Rugby Club

YOUNGSTERS were able to tackle the skills of rugby thanks to Wednesbury Rugby Club.

For two days last week the club ran a rugby camp to introduce the sport to 7 to 14 year old girls and boys.

It was run by the RFU and Wednesbury Rugby Club with both organisations providing coaches. Lead coach Adam Blackford community rugby coach for the RFU said: "The camp had been a great success with two days of rugby and fun in glorious weather.

"The aim is to introduce rugby to young people and to get them interested in the game."

Paul Hill one of Wednesbury's youth team coaches said these camps are a great way to get young people involved with the game of rugby, Wednesbury Rugby Club are recruiting players of all ages and all skill levels.

The aim of the club is to recruit players and hopefully they will progress right through the club and eventually play first team rugby.

Wednesbury train young players from seven to 14 they train on Tuesdays 5-30 to7pm and Sundays 10am to noon, just turn up on one of the training days or contact the club, Paul Hill on 07730417927, Dave Bryant 07795348334 or Adam Blackford RFU contact for Sandwell.

Baggies desperate to hammer out a win

ALBION captain Chris Brunt looks set to be handed a defensive SOS as boss Pepe Mel gears up for the biggest game of his Hawthorns reign on Saturday.

Mel has branded the weekend's clash with West Ham as a "cup final" as the Baggies look to drag themselves away from the Premier League drop zone.

And Brunt looks set for a switch to left-back with Liam Ridgewell facing scans to determine whether his season is over because of a knee injury that forced him to limp off in the 3-1 defeat at Manchester City last night.

Ridgewell looks almost certain to miss the meeting with the Hammers, which Mel has admitted is the biggest game since he arrived.

"It really is the most important game," said the Spaniard. "It can be the game that can spur us on and give us that life."

Mel initially claimed Ridgewell would miss the remaining four games with an ankle problem, but Baggies medics later confirmed the injury was to Ridgewell's knee and he might return before the end of the season. But, with on-loan Goran Popov frozen out, Brunt looks set to move to left-back.

Sports in last eight with ease

Bilston 1 Dudley Sports 2

DUDLEY Sports progressed to the quarter-final of the West Midlands League Premier Division Cup with victory at Bilston.

The game last Wednesday began with both teams having half-chances but neither troubled the keepers. Sports took the lead on 20 minutes after Bilston failed to clear, Conner Mayher thumping home from 20 yards. They got a second when a Richie Jones shot somehow found its way in with a little help from the Bilston keeper.

They should have got a third on the stroke of half-time when Jones found himself clear but his shot was saved. Bilston got one back in the 80th minute but Sports eased through.

Casuals let lead slip away

Smethwick Rangers 2
W-ton Casuals 2

CASUALS twice held the lead but they dropped two vital West Midland Premier division points in the race for promotion.

Wolves went in front in the 18th minute when the unmarked Angelo Franco at the near post put the finishing touch to an Adrian Jones corner.

Rangers rocked the visitors by equalising in the 60th minute Gurjit Singh latched onto a long clearance to beat Tim Beech.

Casuals hit back to regain the lead in the 75th through Chris Henry from six yards. Casuals lead was short lived though when Singh rifled home a superb 25 yard free kick.

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SPORT

Shared spoils
Tivs victory snatched at the last minute
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Tackling rugby
Young get to grips with game at camp
Page 47

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Tividale show why they are champs

Tividale 3 Heath Hayes 1

HAYES lost this crucial game in their relegation fight to the newly-crowned Midland Alliance League Champions in controversial fashion being denied a penalty and having to play the last half hour with10 men.

With three minutes remaining of the first half controversy broke out when Harry Phillips was penalised for a tackle on Tivs striker Nathan Waite 20 yards from goal and Zac Foster's superbly struck free kick nestled into the corner of the net.

Tivs then enjoyed their best spell of the game and Ashley Jackson finished off a fine move in style. Hayes were then reduced to 10 men when Liam Degville was dismissed for a second bookable offence.

When substitute Leigh Downing further increased the home side's lead it looked game over.

However, the visitors produced a spirited rally and deservedly reduced the arrears when Dave Waple headed home Adam Robinson's cross and Chris Geldart had a good effort saved by Price. But the home side showed why they are the new champions to play out the rest of the game.

Hayes must now win their last two games against Rocester and Gornal.

Thorne hints at Rams stay

ALBION midfielder George Thorne has hinted he could stay at Derby next season if he helps the Rams reach the Premier League.

Thorne scored his first Derby goal to cap a man-of-the-match display in Friday's 2-0 win at Doncaster.

And the 21-year-old has hinted he could be tempted into an extended loan or permanent switch to the Rams if they reach the top flight.

Steve McClaren's men look on course for the Championship play-offs and Thorne said: "I've always said I want to be playing in the Premier League next season but it could be with Derby. I want to get promoted with Derby and then sit down and review things.

"Ideally you'd like automatic promotion, but if it comes down to a day at Wembley we'd back ourselves in a one off game."

Yeltz move closer to winning division trophy

Carlton 1 Halesowen 3

Football

THE Yeltz went one step closer to the Evo-Stik Division One South trophy with a tough, yet promising victory over top half side Carlton Town.

Halesowen made one change to the side that played Sheffield, as Asa Charlton replaced Brendan Kelly who returned to the bench.

The Yeltz were the dominant side throughout the first half, as on nine minutes, an error from the Carlton defence allowed Ben Haseley to take a chance at goal, as he slotted the ball under the keeper, but his shot was off-target and the ball rolled out of play.

The chance kept coming for The Yeltz as Aaron Griffiths' hit a shot that was well saved by Jonathan Viscosi and on 25 minutes, Christie's goal-bound header was just knocked past the post by Carlton's Billy Bennett.

Carlton first chance of the game came on the stroke of half time as Ben Flynn hit a volley from range that flew wide of the right hand post. The Yeltz went in at half-time to find out that Coalville had taken the lead against Leek, and so a victory was the minimal requirement from this game now.

The deadlock was eventually broken by Ben Haseley on 51 minutes as he latched on to a long ball and he nodded the ball easily over Viscosi and into the net, but the lead lasted all of two minutes as Grant Brindley nodded the corner ball over the Keeper and across the box to Daniel Elliott who was able to head the ball into an empty net .

Halesowen tried to get that all-important second goal as Joe Hull nodded the ball over to Ben Haseley, but he could only nod the ball wide,. Yeltz got the second goal they were searching for on 78 minutes, as Ben Haseley was able to nod the ball into the net from point blank range to give his side the lead they desperately needed.

Seven minutes later, the Yeltz made sure they took all three points as Jean-Michel Gueyes fired into an empty net from six yards out. The Yeltz left Nottingham with all three points, but with Coalville beating Leek, Halesowen will have to hope Coalville slip up in their final two games to give The Yeltz a huge opportunity to win the title at Belper.

CITY PUSH ALBION CLOSER TO DROP

Man City 3 Albion 1

Football

FAMILIAR failings saw Albion slide to a routine defeat at the Etihad Stadium and now, as they surely expected before Monday night's appointment with the title challengers, Pepe Mel's side have four matches to save their Premier League lives.

Graham Dorrans gave the 300-or-so Baggies fans a moment to remember with a special goal giving a brief reminder of the player they once hoped would take the top flight by storm.

And the Scot's wonderful strike on 15 minutes threatened for a while to hand City a similar scare to the one handed out by Sunderland less than a week earlier.

Demons

For Mel's men, however, the defensive demons that have blighted their season before and since his arrival ensured normal service was resumed for Manuel Pellegrini's side, who ultimately strolled to a 15th victory from 17 home games this term.

With two pieces of shoddy defending and one absolute calamity, the visitors handed their expensively-assembled hosts a 3-1 half-time lead which their rarely looked like giving away.

It was Argentina 3 Albion 0 as Pablo Zabaleta and Sergio Aguero gave Pellegrini's men a 2-0 lead inside 10 minutes before Martin Demichelis restored the two-goal cushion before the interval after Dorrans' goal had brought about a more confident spell for his side.

It got worse for Mel's side as early as the third minute.

They had already cleared their lines twice in a frantic opening when Samir Nasri's cross was headed away poorly by Liam Ridgewell, Aguero's powerful shot was parried well by Ben Foster and Zabaleta pounced to head home the rebound and knock backAlbion..

The visitors were struggling to stem the early tide of City pressure and it was 2-0 in the 10th minute when dismal defending allowed Aguero in.

It looked like being a long night for the Baggies, but on 15 minutes they gave themselves a much-needed shot in the arm with an outstanding goal capped by a fine Dorrans finish.

With Ridgewell and Jonas Olsson caught ball-watching, Demichelis stole in at the far post to produce the simplest of finishes to leave a stranded Foster apoplectic.

West Bromwich Albion's Graham Dorrans, right, celebrates scoring his side's first goal of the game

Heroes to meet the fans

CRADLEY fans have the chance to meet their heroes before next Tuesday's opening home league meeting of the season at Monmore.

The club are having team posters printed to give away to every supporter and they can get them signed at a rider autograph session between 6.30-7pm.

Buxton are the visitors as the Heathens look to make a winning start on home shale as they defend their National League title.

Co-boss Nigel Pearson said: "The current crop of riders are extremely popular with the fans and this is an opportunity for supporters to come along and get their poster signed.

"We appreciate the support we get week in and week out and this is just another way of the club giving something back to supporters.

"The poster will feature the full team and there will be team members available on entry to the stadium before they go for the track walk.

"We are also looking at putting other added attractions on at meetings later in the season, at no extra cost to the fans."

Ellie adds gold medal to haul

ELLIE SIMMONDS won 400m freestyle gold to claim her second medal of the British Para-Swimming International meet on the final day in Glasgow.

The Paralympic and world champion lowered her time by more than a second to finish in 5.26.52 and secured her third qualification for the contest.

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